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# A Needs Assessment of Older Hispanics in Omaha, Nebraska

David R. DiMartino

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**A NEEDS ASSESSMENT  
OF OLDER HISPANICS IN OMAHA, NEBRASKA**

**Dr. David R. DiMartino**



**Center for Applied Urban Research  
University of Nebraska at Omaha**

**1979**

**Prepared for the Nebraska Mexican--American Commission  
with funding from the Nebraska Commission on Aging.**



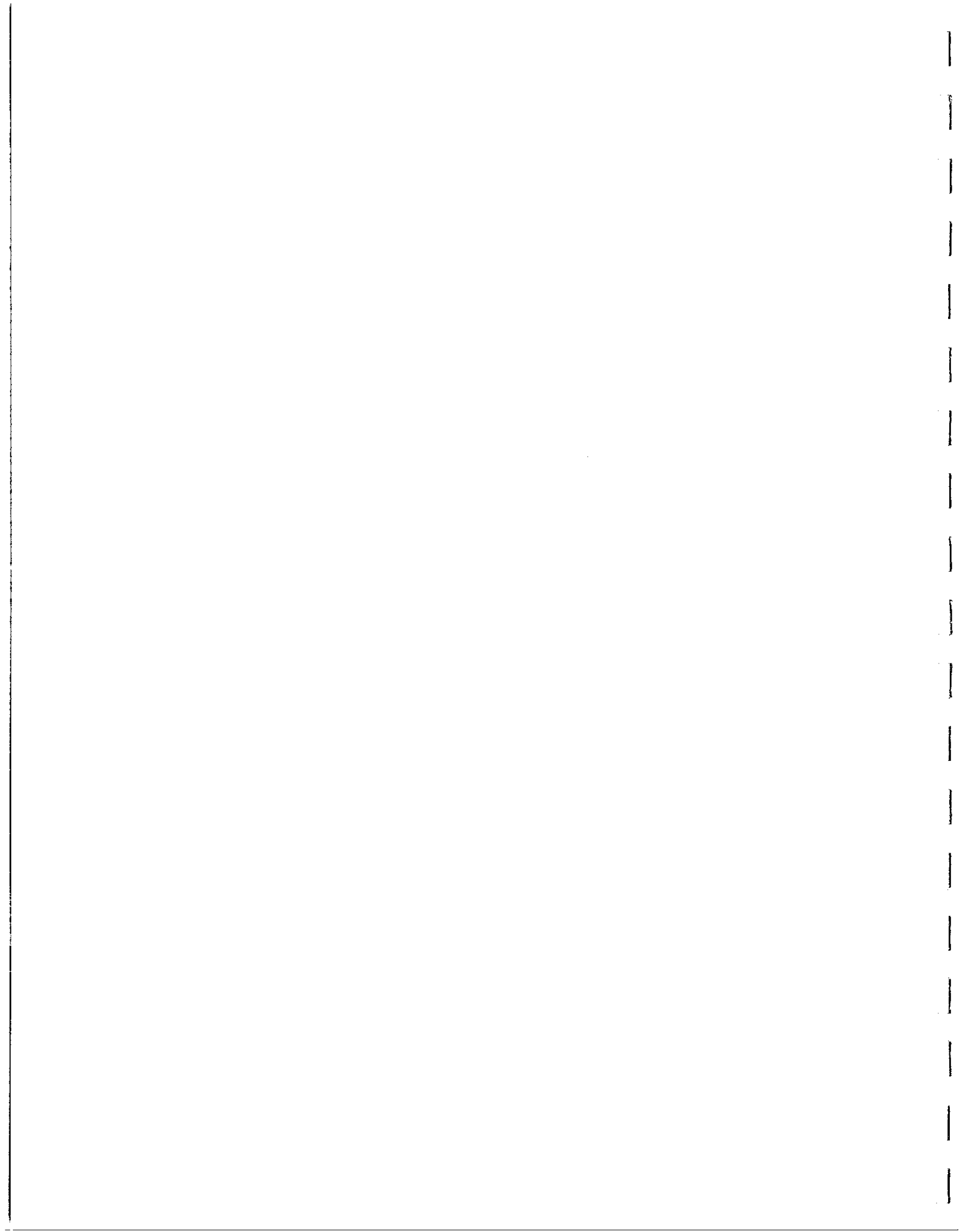
#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This study was conducted by staff members of the Center for Applied Urban Research. David R. DiMartino was principal investigator and author. Carole M. Davis and Genevieve Burch were major contributors. Murray Frost and Jack Ruff served as advisors. Jason Chen was data processor for the study, and Marian Meier edited the final report. Joyce Carson and Beverly Walker were typists.

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

|   | Page |
|---|------|
| ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....   | i    |
| LIST OF TABLES.....   | v    |
| SECTION I: INTRODUCTION.....  | 1    |
| The Context.....  | 1    |
| Purpose.....  | 1    |
| Identification of Study Subjects.....                               | 2    |
| Hispanic.....   | 2    |
| Older.....  | 3    |
| Omahans.....  | 3    |
| SECTION II: SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS.....                            | 7    |
| Demographic Characteristics.....                                    | 7    |
| Residential Characteristics.....                                    | 7    |
| Interactions.....   | 8    |
| Service Utilization.....  | 9    |
| Health Services.....  | 9    |
| Legal Services.....   | 9    |
| Public Programs.....  | 9    |
| Attitudes.....  | 10   |
| Conclusions.....  | 10   |
| SECTION III: THE COMPARATIVE CONTEXT - HISPANICS IN THE 1970'S..... | 13   |
| National Numbers and Growth.....                                    | 13   |
| Older Americans.....  | 13   |
| Hispanic Americans.....   | 13   |
| Mexican Americans.....  | 15   |
| Older Hispanic Americans.....                                       | 15   |
| Omaha Numbers and Growth.....                                       | 17   |
| Omaha's Hispanics.....  | 18   |
| Omaha's Older Citizens.....   | 19   |
| Omaha's Older Hispanics.....  | 19   |
| SECTION IV: DEMOGRAPHICS - RESPONDENT CHARACTERISTICS.....          | 23   |
| Age.....  | 23   |
| Sex.....  | 24   |
| Birthplace/Ethnic Status.....                                       | 26   |
| Religious Affiliation.....  | 27   |
| Education.....  | 28   |
| Literacy.....   | 30   |
| Employment Status.....  | 31   |
| Occupational Structure.....   | 33   |
| Income.....   | 35   |
| Sources of Income.....  | 37   |
| Household Status and Composition.....                               | 38   |

|  | Page |
|--|------|
| SECTION V: RESIDENTIAL/ENVIRONMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS.....        | 42   |
| Housing Type.....  | 42   |
| Housing Tenure.....  | 43   |
| Homestead Tax Exemption.....                                     | 44   |
| Length of Residence.....   | 44   |
| Access to Housing.....   | 47   |
| Housing Costs.....   | 47   |
| SECTION VI: INTERACTIONS - PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL.....              | 49   |
| Physical Mobility.....   | 49   |
| Manner of Mobility.....  | 50   |
| Social Interactions.....   | 52   |
| Dining Patterns.....   | 54   |
| Participation in Activities.....                                 | 58   |
| Media Patronage.....   | 61   |
| Telephone.....   | 63   |
| SECTION VII: SERVICE UTILIZATION BY OMAHA'S OLDER HISPANICS..... | 65   |
| Health Services.....   | 65   |
| Problems Acquiring Health Services.....                          | 69   |
| Manner of Payment for Health Services.....                       | 69   |
| Legal Services.....  | 71   |
| Enfranchisement (Register/Vote).....                             | 72   |
| Public Services.....   | 73   |
| Public Services - Comparative Context.....                       | 77   |
| SECTION VIII: ATTITUDES OF OMAHA'S OLDER HISPANICS.....          | 81   |
| Severity of Problems.....  | 81   |
| Problem Security - Comparative Context.....                      | 84   |
| General Life Attitudes.....                                      | 86   |
| REFERENCES.....  | 89   |
| APPENDIX I: RESEARCH DESIGN.....                                 | 95   |
| APPENDIX II: QUESTIONNAIRE.....                                  | 101  |

# LIST OF TABLES

| Table   | Page |
|---|------|
| 1. COMPARATIVE FIGURES FOR HISPANIC AND OLDER POPULATIONS<br>IN SPECIFIED AREAS, 1970.....  | 14   |
| 2. COMPARATIVE FIGURES FOR HISPANIC AND OLDER POPULATIONS<br>IN SPECIFIED AREAS, 1976.....  | 16   |
| 3. COMPARISONS OF MEDIAN AGES AND PERCENT 65 OR OLDER,<br>1970 AND 1978.....  | 17   |
| 4. OMAHA'S HISPANIC POPULATION BY DECENNIAL CENSUS.....   | 18   |
| 5. MALE POPULATION AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL POPULATION<br>AMONG "OLDER" AGE CATEGORIES FOR TOTAL AND HISPANIC<br>POPULATIONS IN SPECIFIED AREAS 1970..... | 21   |
| 6. AGE DISTRIBUTION OF OLDER HISPANICS IN OMAHA.....  | 23   |
| 7. PERCENT OF OLDER CITIZENS BY AGE CATEGORIES BY GROUP.....  | 24   |
| 8. PERCENT OF OLDER CITIZENS BY SEX BY GROUP.....   | 25   |
| 9. SEX DISTRIBUTION OF OLDER HISPANICS BY AGE GROUPS,<br>AS A PERCENT.....  | 25   |
| 10. BIRTHPLACE OF OLDER HISPANICS.....  | 26   |
| 11. ETHNIC IDENTITY OF OLDER HISPANICS.....   | 26   |
| 12. ETHNIC IDENTITY OF OLDER HISPANICS BY SEX AND AGE GROUP,<br>AS A PERCENT.....   | 27   |
| 13. RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION OF OLDER HISPANICS.....   | 28   |
| 14. EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF OLDER OMAHA HISPANICS.....  | 28   |
| 15. PERCENTAGE COMPARISON OF EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT<br>BETWEEN HISPANIC AND GENERAL POPULATION.....   | 29   |
| 16. PERCENT OF HISPANICS EDUCATED IN UNITED STATES AND MEXICO.....  | 30   |
| 17. PERCENT OF HISPANICS LITERATE IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH.....   | 31   |
| 18. EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF OLDER HISPANICS.....   | 31   |
| 19. EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF OLDER HISPANICS BY SEX AND AGE,<br>AS A PERCENT.....   | 32   |
| 20. PERCENT OF OLDER CITIZENS PER EMPLOYMENT STATUS BY GROUP.....   | 33   |



# LIST OF TABLES (Continued)

| Table   | Page |
|---|------|
| 21. EMPLOYMENT CLASSIFICATION OF OLDER HISPANICS.....                             | 33   |
| 22. PERCENT OF OLDER CITIZENS PER EMPLOYMENT CATEGORY<br>BY GROUP.....            | 34   |
| 23. DISTRIBUTION OF MONTHLY INDIVIDUAL INCOMES AMONG<br>OLDER HISPANICS.....      | 35   |
| 24. DISTRIBUTION OF MONTHLY HOUSEHOLD INCOMES AMONG<br>OLDER OMAHA HISPANICS..... | 36   |
| 25. ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME AS DIFFERENTIATED BY SIZE<br>OF HOUSEHOLD.....        | 36   |
| 26. PERCENT OF OLDER HOUSEHOLDS PER INCOME CATEGORY<br>BY GROUP.....              | 37   |
| 27. SOURCES OF INCOME FOR OLDER HISPANICS.....                                    | 38   |
| 28. PERCENT OF OLDER HOUSEHOLDS BY MARITAL STATUS BY GROUP.....                   | 39   |
| 29. LIVING ARRANGEMENTS OF OLDER CITIZENS BY GROUP,<br>AS A PERCENT.....          | 40   |
| 30. SIZE OF HOUSEHOLD FOR OLDER CITIZENS BY GROUP,<br>AS A PERCENT.....           | 41   |
| 31. OLDER HOUSEHOLDS BY TYPE OF HOUSING BY GROUP,<br>AS A PERCENT.....            | 43   |
| 32. PERCENT OF OLDER HOUSEHOLDS BY HOUSING TENURE BY GROUP.....                   | 43   |
| 33. LENGTH OF RESIDENCE OF OMAHA'S OLDER HISPANIC HOUSEHOLDS.....                 | 45   |
| 34. PERCENT OF OLDER HOUSEHOLDS BY LENGTH OF RESIDENCE<br>BY GROUP.....           | 46   |
| 35. FORMER LOCATION OF OLDER HISPANICS, AS A PERCENT.....                         | 46   |
| 36. HOUSING COSTS OF OLDER HISPANICS.....   | 48   |
| 37. FREQUENCY OF PHYSICAL MOBILITY FOR OLDER GROUPS,<br>AS A PERCENT.....         | 50   |
| 38. MANNER OF MOBILITY FOR OLDER GROUPS, AS A PERCENT.....                        | 51   |
| 39. VISITATION PATTERNS OF OLDER HISPANICS, AS A PERCENT.....                     | 53   |
| 40. FREQUENCY OF VISITATION AMONG OLDER GROUPS, AS A PERCENT.....                 | 54   |

# LIST OF TABLES (Continued)

| Table   | Page |
|---|------|
| 41. DINING ARRANGEMENTS OF OLDER HISPANICS, AS A PERCENT.....   | 55   |
| 42. DINING ARRANGEMENTS OF OLDER CITIZENS BY GROUP,<br>AS A PERCENT.....  | 55   |
| 43. COMPARISON OF VISITING AND DINING PATTERNS AMONG GROUPS,<br>AS A PERCENT.....                                   | 56   |
| 44. FREQUENCY OF HISPANICS EATING AWAY FROM HOME,<br>AS A PERCENT.....  | 57   |
| 45. COMPARISON OF FREQUENCIES OF OLDER CITIZENS EATING<br>AWAY FROM HOME, AS A PERCENT.....                         | 57   |
| 46. COMPARISON OF KNOWLEDGE OF AND PARTICIPATION IN HOT<br>NOON MEAL PROGRAMS AMONG OLDER GROUPS, AS A PERCENT..... | 58   |
| 47. ACTIVITIES OF OMAHA'S OLDER HISPANICS.....  | 59   |
| 48. RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES OF OMAHA'S OLDER HISPANICS.....  | 61   |
| 49. PATRONAGE OF MEDIA BY OLDER HISPANICS, AS A PERCENT.....  | 62   |
| 50. UTILIZATION OF MEDICAL SERVICES BY OLDER HISPANICS.....   | 66   |
| 51. COMPARISON OF HEALTH SERVICES USAGE AND PROBLEMS<br>BETWEEN OLDER GROUPS, AS A PERCENT.....                     | 68   |
| 52. MANNER OF PAYMENT FOR MEDICAL SERVICES BY<br>OLDER HISPANICS.....   | 70   |
| 53. COMBINATIONS OF PAYMENT FOR MEDICAL SERVICES AS<br>A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL OLDER HISPANICS.....                   | 71   |
| 54. PERCENT OF OLDER CITIZENS EXPERIENCING LEGAL<br>PROBLEMS BY GROUP.....  | 71   |
| 55. OLDER HISPANICS' PREFERENCES FOR LEGAL COUNSEL<br>IF/WHEN EXPERIENCING LEGAL PROBLEMS.....                      | 72   |
| 56. POLITICAL REGISTRATION AND VOTING AMONG<br>OMAHA'S OLDER HISPANICS.....   | 73   |
| 57. AWARENESS OF PROGRAMS FOR THE ELDERLY BY<br>OLDER OMAHA HISPANICS.....  | 74   |
| 58. A COMPARISON OF AWARENESS AND PARTICIPATION<br>RATES BETWEEN OLDER OMAHA HISPANICS AND OLDER NEBRASKANS.....    | 78   |

# LIST OF TABLES (Continued)

| Table   | Page |
|---|------|
| 59. OLDER OMAHA HISPANICS' VIEWS OF THE SERIOUSNESS<br>OF PROBLEM AREAS.....  | 81   |
| 60. RANKING OF SERIOUSNESS OF PROBLEM AREAS ACCORDING<br>TO RESPONSES OF OLDER HISPANICS.....                       | 83   |
| 61. COMPARISON OF SERIOUSNESS OF PROBLEM AREAS<br>BETWEEN OLDER HISPANICS AND OLDER NEBRASKANS.....                 | 85   |
| 62. COMPARISON OF GENERAL LIFE ATTITUDES BETWEEN<br>OLDER OMAHA HISPANICS AND OLDER NEBRASKANS<br>AS A PERCENT..... | 87   |

## SECTION I

### INTRODUCTION

#### The Context

The successful delivery of human services requires rational program planning. Rational program planning, in turn, requires evaluation of 1) the needs of targeted client groups, 2) the availability of established services to the potential clients, and 3) the utilization of available services by the client population(s). The success of human service delivery systems, therefore, must incorporate the assessment of public programs in terms of the correspondence between client needs and service provision and usage.

Lack of participation in established programs may be attributed to a wide variety of cultural, economic, spatial, and/or structural factors; those factors may serve as direct or indirect barriers to participation. Agencies responsible for program administration and service delivery may be unaware of the existence or extent of such barriers or of the options available to overcome such barriers, or they may be unconcerned with such considerations. In any case, public programs which fail to reach identifiable groups in need cannot be considered successful. Therefore, the assessment of program participation is a primary requisite for rational program planning and development in the human service field.

#### Purpose

This study constitutes a needs assessment of one specific client group--older Hispanics residing in Omaha, Nebraska. The focus of the report is to determine:

1. the degree to which older Omaha Hispanics are aware of and participate in available services for the elderly; and
2. the factors contributing to the use or non-use of those services by older Omaha Hispanics.

Contributing factors may include the demographic, residential, interaction, and attitudinal characteristics of the older Hispanics. Therefore, this analysis determines: 1) the demographic and residential characteristics of the population; 2) their interaction characteristics including types of communication, transportation, and activity networks upon which they rely; and 3) the population's attitudes, with particular reference to their perceptions of the seriousness of selected problem areas for themselves and their community.

Patterns in the data base are noted and compared with the tendencies of other relevant groups and areas. Particularly important are the comparisons between the study subjects and the population of older Nebraskans.<sup>1</sup>

#### Identification of Study Subjects

The characteristic labels used to identify the study subjects of this report were selected purposefully. The study subjects are distinct in their ethnicity, age, and location and are labeled accordingly as older Hispanic Omahans. The definitions and rationale for the use of those labels follow.

Hispanic. The use of the term Hispanic to describe the study subjects' ethnicity is based upon both the literature consulted and the responses of the subjects themselves. Hispanic is the most objective general term in usage and "is a purely cultural term with no national or racial overtones" (Campa, 1979). Hispanic, therefore, serves here as the label in identifying individuals with distinctively Spanish cultural identity, according to language usage, values, etc.

The avoidance of distinctions among Hispanics of different national origins was purposeful in order to avoid prejudging the origins of the study subjects. Subsequently, all of the study subjects proved to be of

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<sup>1</sup>Research Associates of Lincoln, Nebraska published a series of area reports (on behalf of the Nebraska Commission on Aging) in 1978 reporting upon the attitudes of Nebraska's older citizens. The results of this analysis are compared to the reported results of the Research Associates' analysis throughout this report.

Mexican origins--100 percent by descent and 80 percent by birth.<sup>1</sup> Therefore, the two terms--Hispanic and Mexican-American--may be used synonymously when referring to the subjects of this study. Hispanic is adopted as the reference term in this text for the sake of brevity.

The term Chicano was purposely avoided in this report because of its political connotations and because it was rejected unanimously as a self-identifying label by the study subjects themselves.

Older. The term "older" was selected to identify the study subjects' age group. That label was selected over the alternative "elderly" label because of the closer association of the elderly label with retirement and because some persons in that age group consider the elderly label as offensive. Additionally, the entrance age for inclusion of persons into the "older" group was set at 60 years. The rationale for selecting age 60 or over other traditional breaking points--62, 65, or 70--was to separate the reference point from a retirement context and to enable comparisons between the results of this study and a similar study of older Nebraska citizens conducted for the Nebraska Commission on Aging (Research Associates, 1978a and b).

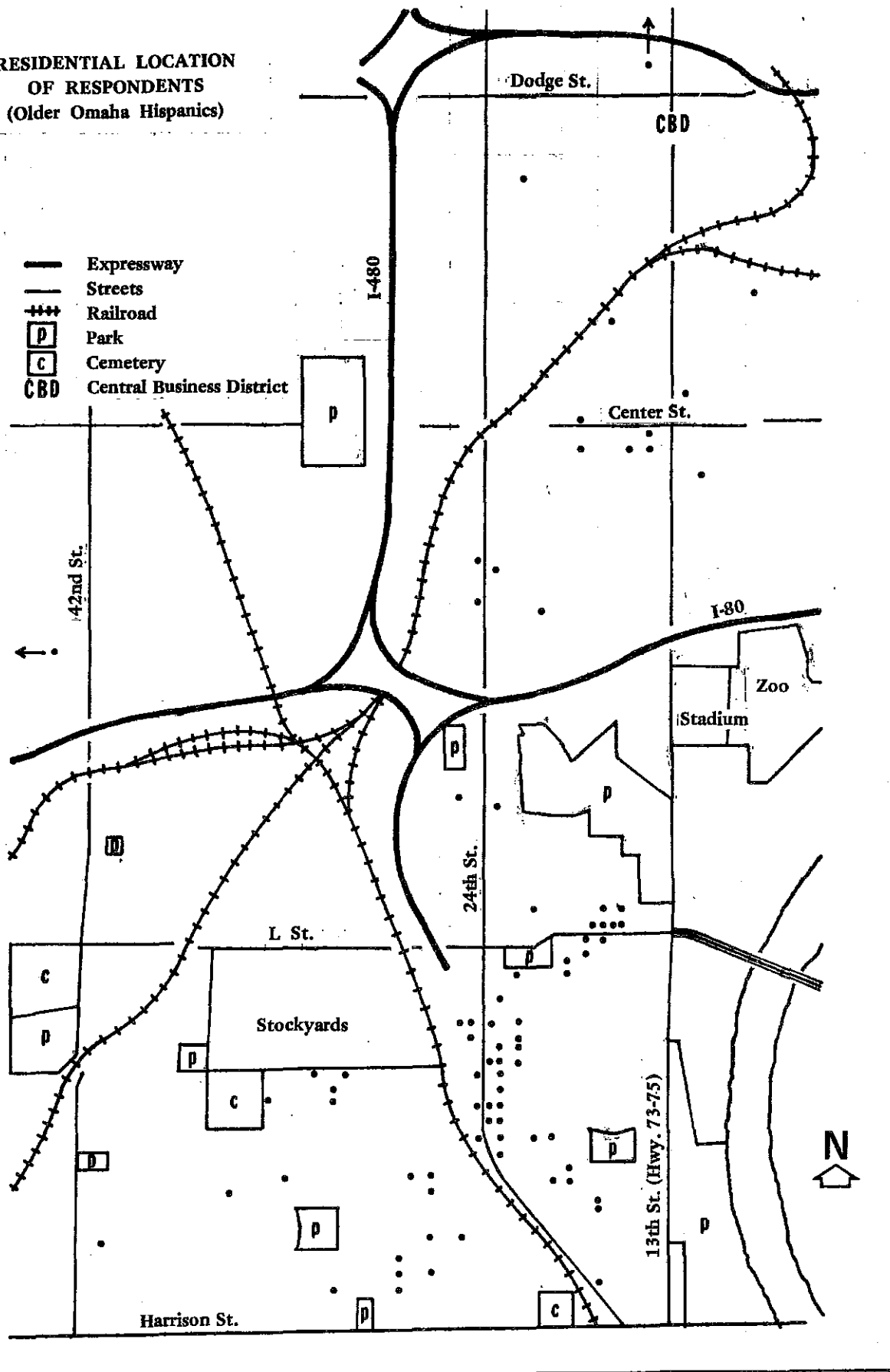
Omahans. The selection of study subjects was limited to those older Hispanics residing within the City of Omaha, Nebraska. Using the 1970 Census of Population as a guide, an overwhelming number of Douglas County Hispanics (96 percent) and older Hispanics (95 percent) were found to reside within the city limits of Omaha. In fact, the Hispanic population of Omaha is particularly concentrated within the extreme southeast sector of the city, particularly in Census Tracts 27 and 29 in 1970, as indicated by the location of survey respondents in the map on the following page. That area has been known traditionally as South Omaha.

Given the concentration of Hispanics in that area so very close to the Douglas-Sarpy County line, the question arose of whether to include Sarpy County's older Hispanics within the study group. Considering the very small size of Sarpy County's older Hispanic population (only 14 individuals

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<sup>1</sup>The census terms used since 1970--Spanish-origins and Mexican-origins--refer to individuals' self-identification of their origins (place of birth) or descent; the terms are not equivalent to the term foreign-born. The census terms are not used in this report, but census statistics, based upon those terms, are used in this report for comparative purposes.

**RESIDENTIAL LOCATION  
OF RESPONDENTS  
(Older Omaha Hispanics)**



counted by the Census in 1970), pursuing those older Hispanics in Sarpy County was considered unnecessary.

The study subjects of this report are, therefore, a sampling of older (60 or more years of age) Hispanics (Mexican-Americans) residing within the city limits of Omaha, Nebraska.





## SECTION II

### SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The findings of this study are summarized in this section of the report. The organization of this summary parallels five of the sections to follow--Demographic Characteristics (in Section IV), Residential/Environmental Characteristics (in Section V), Interactions (in Section VI), Service Utilization (in Section VII), and Attitudes of Omaha's Older Hispanics (in Section VIII).

#### Demographic Characteristics

Most of Omaha's older Hispanic population were born in Mexico (80 percent) and identified themselves as Mexicans (53 percent) or Mexican-Americans (43 percent). According to voter registrations, a minimum of 53 percent were United States citizens.

Older Hispanics received relatively little formal schooling, with 34 percent receiving no formal education. However, only 11 percent were illiterate, and 68 percent were bilingual.

Seventy-one percent of the older Hispanics were retired. Current and former workers were employed predominantly as "operatives" (74 percent), and another 18 percent were employed as "service workers." In excess of 90 percent of older Hispanics had household incomes which fell below "low-income" levels, according to HUD guidelines.

Twenty-seven percent of older Hispanics lived alone in single-person households. Forty-seven percent were currently married and living with spouses. Slightly more males were found within the older Hispanic population.

#### Residential Characteristics

Omaha's older Hispanic population was found to be concentrated within the southeast section of Omaha, known as South Omaha. At the time of the survey older Hispanics resided predominantly in individual private

homes (89 percent), and 73 percent of older Hispanics owned their houses.

Older Hispanics have lived in their present residences relatively long periods of time, with 57 percent living at their present locations 20 or more years. Ninety percent have lived at other locations in the United States prior to their present residency.

### Interactions

Omaha's older Hispanics were found to be physically mobile and socially interactive. Eighty-nine percent of older Hispanics got out of their homes at least several times per week. Twenty-six percent walked to get around, 30 percent took a bus, 33 percent drove, and 41 percent were driven.

Older Hispanics visited with relatives more frequently than with friends. Seventy-six percent visited with family members regularly/often, while 24 percent visited with friends regularly/often.

Most older Hispanics dined with others. Sixty-six percent ate their main meals with relatives; however, a full 25 percent did dine alone. Additionally, 40 percent of older Hispanics ate meals away from home regularly/often.

Older Hispanics enjoyed many varied activities in and away from their homes. Categories of activities in their homes were: entertainment (70 percent), gardening (55 percent), and chores (41 percent). Activities away from home included: entertainment (46 percent), socializing (30 percent), and church-related activities (30 percent). Other activities desired but unrealized by older Hispanics included: entertainment (65 percent), sports (29 percent), socializing (30 percent), and church-related activities (30 percent). Spanish-language entertainment, particularly movies, was the most desired activity, cited by 52 percent of older Hispanics.

The communications media were patronized unevenly by older Hispanics. Television was patronized most (90 percent), followed by radio (49 percent), newspapers (37 percent), and magazines (25 percent). Spanish-language media were used in nearly the reverse order; newspapers most (25 percent), followed by magazines (22 percent), radio (20 percent), and television (5 percent). An overwhelming 98 percent of older Hispanics had telephones in their homes.

## Service Utilization

Health Services. Medical/Health services were utilized by most older Hispanics, though treatment was sought at a rate less than the frequency of illness. Health checkups were received by 73 percent of older Hispanics during the past year. Private doctors were used by 70 percent of older Hispanics in the past year, and 52 percent used hospital services. Very few (4 percent) older Hispanics acknowledged the use of curanderos.

A majority of older Hispanics (53 percent) paid for medical services with Medicare and supplemented those payments with cash (20 percent) or health insurance (20 percent). Few problems were cited by older Hispanics in their acquisition of health services; those few problems included the availability of transportation and Spanish-speaking personnel.

Legal Services. Very few (7 percent) older Hispanics encountered legal problems during the past year. Fifty-nine percent of older Hispanics with or without legal problems said they did/would consult a lawyer; another 35 percent said they would consult family or friends.

Fifty-three percent of older Hispanics were registered to vote, and 80 percent of those registered said they voted in the last election.

Public Programs. Social Security was the only one of the 15 public programs examined in this analysis used by a majority (78 percent) of older Hispanics in Omaha. From 10 to 16 percent participated in another six programs. Eight of the programs were unknown to, much less used by, a majority of older Hispanics.

Compared to older Nebraskans, older Hispanics participated less in six of the 15 programs and participated more in eight of the 15 programs. Those programs with greater Hispanic participation tended to be of the health and interaction types. Those programs with relatively less Hispanic participation tended to be of the financial and residential types. The financial needs of older Hispanics suggest an under-utilization of public programs by older Hispanics, particularly of the financial and residential type programs.

The awareness of public programs by older Hispanics, as compared to older Nebraskans, was even less than their degree of participation. Older Hispanics were less aware of ten of the 15 programs than were older Nebraskans. As compared to older Nebraskans in their own Eastern Region of Nebraska, older Hispanics were less aware of 14 out of 15 programs.

## Attitudes

Omaha's older Hispanics evaluated 16 potential problem areas as more serious for the Hispanic community than for themselves. A majority of older Hispanics viewed four of the problem areas as somewhat/very serious for themselves, but they viewed ten of the problem areas as somewhat/very serious for the Hispanic community. The four most frequently cited problem areas for older Hispanics were: language, elderly services, education, and culture loss.

Older Hispanics viewed each of eight problem areas as relatively more serious than did other older Nebraskans. The greatest disparity between the views of older Hispanics and older Nebraskans lay with the areas of education and discrimination; older Hispanics viewed those problem areas as far more serious than did other older Nebraskans.

Older Hispanics also were less positive in their general life attitudes than were older Nebraskans in general. Greater proportions of older Hispanics, as compared to older Nebraskans, stated that they were not satisfied with their lives, were lonely, and were not experiencing satisfactory levels of activity.

## Conclusions

Analysis of the responses of those surveyed for this report demonstrates several areas of need among Omaha's older Hispanic population. Comparisons of the espoused needs of older Hispanics with the needs of other older Nebraskans reinforces the relatively greater needs among Hispanics as compared to the general population.

The most significant of the documented needs for older Hispanics are financial. The proportion of older Hispanics (90 percent) subsisting on incomes below low-income level, demonstrates the extent and severity of the financial problems faced by the group. In addition, almost all other aspects of living, including activities and services which involve payments, are impacted by the financial status of the older Hispanics.

The older Hispanic population in Omaha, though relatively active, includes members who are in need of (and desire) specific activities and services. The need for those activities and services may be attributed to various conditions, including problems of health, income, transportation, and communications (language). Findings, such as the fact that 25 percent

of older Hispanics dine alone and that only 24 percent of older Hispanics visit regularly or often with friends, demonstrate the need for greater interaction and activities among significant numbers of older Hispanics.

Most importantly for the purposes of this report, Omaha's older Hispanics have a demonstrated need for available public program services. The awareness of and participation in public programs are less than should be expected among older Hispanics. With participation rates of less than 16 percent for 14 of the 15 programs examined, the public services are clearly under-utilized by older Hispanics. Moreover, compared to other older Nebraskans, older Hispanics are less aware of 10 out of 15 programs and participate less in six of the programs. Ironically, the financial and residential programs for which older Hispanics have the greatest need are those very programs least utilized.

The need for greater knowledge of and participation in public service programs by older Hispanics suggests the necessity for better dissemination of information on those programs. That information should be available in Spanish, as well as English, so that those who have difficulty with English may also receive first-hand information.<sup>1</sup> In addition, the financial needs of Omaha's older Hispanics suggest the necessity for greater efforts at locating and encouraging older Hispanics to make use of those public programs for which they qualify.

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<sup>1</sup>Similar conclusions were reached based upon the perspective of Omaha's service providers and leaders in the Hispanic community (Burch, 1979).



## SECTION III

### THE COMPARATIVE CONTEXT--HISPANICS IN THE 1970'S

#### National Numbers and Growth

Hispanics and the elderly are two groups which continue to increase in significance as a proportion of the total United States population. However, acquiring up-to-date information on the size of the older Hispanic population is difficult, particularly at the local level. The difficulty in acquiring data increases both with the recency of desired data and with the specificity of the data sought.<sup>1</sup> Nevertheless, examination of those available data is worthwhile in order to gain a comparative appreciation of the numbers involved.

Older Americans. The total United States population grew at a rate of 6.7 percent between 1970 and 1977. During the same period, the 65 and over age group grew by 17.6 percent (3.5 million), making that age group the second fastest growing group--second only to the 25 to 34 year age group (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1978a, p. 1). In fact, the 65 and over age group has doubled in size from 12 million in 1950 to 24 million in 1978 (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1978a, p.1). The seriousness of the continued, significant growth among the older population becomes apparent when it is realized that the programs "designed to meet the financial and medical needs of the elderly have already begun to experience strain" because of the increase in numbers of elderly (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1979a, p.1).

Hispanic Americans. The Hispanic population in the United States has also grown significantly during the 1970's. The American population of

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<sup>1</sup>Additional problems exist in the margin of error in Census statistics, and in the undercount by the Census of certain groups. The Bureau of the Census estimated an undercount of 2 percent for the elderly in 1970 (U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, 1978, p. 5), and 14 percent for Hispanics in 1970 (Crewdson, 1979, p. E2307).



TABLE 1  
COMPARATIVE FIGURES FOR HISPANIC AND OLDER POPULATIONS IN SPECIFIED AREAS, 1970

|   | Omaha <sup>a/</sup>                                    | Douglas County <sup>a/</sup>                           | Sarpy County <sup>a/</sup>                            | Nebraska <sup>b/ c/</sup>                              | West North-Central<br>United States <sup>c/ d/</sup> | United States <sup>c/ d/</sup>  |
|---|--|--|---|--|--|---|
| Total Population  | 346,929  | 389,056  | 66,200  | 1,482,412  | 16,319,187   | 203,211,926   |
| Male  | 165,257 (47.6%)  | 186,618 (47.9%)  | 32,989 (49.8%)  | 724,033 (48.8%)  | 7,960,299 (48.8%)                                    | 98,912,192 (48.7%)  |
| Female  | 182,071  | 202,837  | 30,707  | 758,379  | 8,358,888  | 104,299,734   |
| Population of<br>Spanish-Language/<br>Spanish-Origin*       | 6,490 (1.9% of Tot)<br>3,156 (48.6%)<br>3,334          | 7,055 (1.8% of Tot)<br>3,493 (49.5%)<br>3,562          | 1,592 (2.4% of Tot)<br>792 (49.7%)<br>800             | 20,749 (1.4% of Tot)<br>10,014 (48.3%)<br>10,735       | 198,645 (1.2% of Tot)<br>98,620 (49.6%)<br>100,025   | 9,072,602 (4.4% of Tot)<br>4,452,978 (49.1%)<br>4,619,624                         |
| Population of<br>Mexican-Origins                            | 6,490 { .47% of Tot<br>25.1% of Sp Tot                 | 7,055 { .43% of Tot<br>23.9% of Sp Tot                 | 1,592 { .25% of Tot<br>10.3% of Sp Tot                | 20,749 { .79% of Tot<br>57% of Sp Pop                  | 198,645  | 9,072,602 { 2.2% of Tot<br>49.9% of Sp Tot  |
| Male  | —  | —  | —   | 5,938 (50.2%)  | 38,185 (51.4%)                                       | 2,245,323 (49.5%)   |
| Female  | —  | —  | —   | 5,889  | 36,109   | 2,287,112   |
| Total Older (60+)   | 49,099 (14.2% of Tot)                                  | 51,829 (13.3% of Tot)                                  | 2,682 (4.1% of Tot)                                   | 250,993 (16.9% of Tot)                                 | 2,646,886 (16.2% of Tot)                             | 28,682,286 (14.1% of Tot)   |
| Population  | 21,481 (41.0%)   | 21,481 (41.4%)   | 1,265 (47.2%)   | 110,382 (43.9%)  | 1,159,499 (43.8%)                                    | 12,442,680 (43.4%)  |
| Male  | 28,964   | 30,348   | 1,417   | 140,611  | 1,487,387  | 16,239,606  |
| Female  | 348 { .10% of Tot<br>5.4% of Sp Tot<br>.67% of Old Tot | 367 { .09% of Tot<br>5.2% of Sp Tot<br>.75% of Old Tot | 14 { .02% of Tot<br>.88% of Sp Tot<br>.52% of Old Tot | 913 { .06% of Tot<br>4.3% of Sp Tot<br>.36% of Old Tot | —  | 606,278 { .29% of Tot<br>6.7% of Sp Tot<br>2.1% of Old Tot                        |
| Older Population of<br>Spanish-Language/<br>Spanish-Origin* | 197 (57%)  | 207 (56%)  | 6 (43%)   | 484 (53%)  | —  | 283,753 (46.8%)   |
| Male  | 151  | 160  | 8   | 429  | —  | 322,525   |
| Female  | —  | —  | —   | —  | —  | —   |
| Older<br>Population of<br>Mexican-Origin                    | —  | —  | —   | —  | —  | 283,478 { .14% of Tot<br>3.1% of Sp Tot<br>.99% of Old Tot<br>46.8% of Sp Old Tot |
| Male  | —  | —  | —   | —  | —  | 138,862 (48.9%)   |
| Female  | —  | —  | —   | —  | —  | 144,616   |

\*The data base for Omaha, Douglas County and Sarpy County is the population of Spanish language; the data base for Nebraska, West North-Central Region and United States is the population of Spanish origins.

Sources:

<sup>a/</sup>U.S. Bureau of the Census. *Census of Population and Housing: 1970, Census Tracts, PHC(1)-153, Omaha, Nebraska-Iowa SMSA*. U.S. Government Printing Office: Washington, D.C. (April, 1972) Tables P-1, P-2, P-7 and P-8.

<sup>b/</sup>U.S. Bureau of the Census. *Census of Population: 1970, General Social and Economic Characteristics, PC(1)-C29, Nebraska*. U.S. Government Printing Office: Washington, D.C. (February, 1972) Tables 45 and 48.

<sup>c/</sup>U.S. Bureau of the Census. *Census of Population: 1970, Subjects Reports, PC(2)-1C, Persons of Spanish Origin*. U.S. Government Printing Office: Washington, D.C. (June, 1973). Tables 1, 2, and 3.

<sup>d/</sup>U.S. Bureau of the Census. *Census of Population: 1970, General Population Characteristics, PC(1)-B1, United States Summary*. U.S. Government Printing Office: Washington, D.C. (January, 1972) Tables 52 and 62.

Spanish origins had grown to approximately 12 million by March of 1978 (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1978b, p. 1). Census estimates suggest that the population of Spanish origins had grown by more than 23 percent from 1970 to 1976, while the total American population had grown by only 4 percent (derived from Tables 1 and 2). Thus, the population of Spanish origins comprises an increasing proportion of the total United States population, from 4.4 percent of the total in 1970 to 5.3 percent of the total in 1976 (Tables 1 and 2).

Mexican Americans. Comparative data on Americans of Mexican origins are more difficult to acquire in any detail. The difficulty arises from the scales at which detailed data are collected and the persistence of Mexican nationals entering the United States "without papers" (leading, of course, to under-estimations).

The Census estimates that Americans of Mexican origins totaled 7.2 million in 1978 (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1978b, p. 1). Mexican-Americans are estimated to have increased in number by 60 percent between 1970 (4.5 million) and 1978 (7.2 million) (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1978b, p. 1, and Table 1). The population of Mexican origins has increased more rapidly during the 1970's than any other group of Spanish origins. The result is that Mexican-Americans have increased as a percentage of all Americans of Spanish origins, from 50 percent in 1970 to 60 percent in 1978 (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1978b, p. 1, and Table 1).

Older Hispanic Americans. A closer examination of the population which is both Hispanic and elderly yields a somewhat different impression. Analysis of differences in the median age and percent of population 65 or more years of age between Hispanics and the total population in the United States demonstrates that Spanish-Americans and Mexican-Americans are both younger as a group and have fewer elderly among their numbers (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1972a, Table 52; 1973a, Table 3; and 1978b, Table 2). The comparison of these data between 1970 and 1978 in Table 3 indicates a general increase in the median age of all categories (though most for Mexican-Americans), indicating a slight aging of the population. Further, these comparisons indicate a proportionate increase in the elderly among the general population but a proportionate decrease in the elderly among Hispanics.

TABLE 2  
COMPARATIVE FIGURES FOR HISPANIC AND OLDER POPULATIONS IN SPECIFIED AREAS, 1976\*

|   | Nebraska                | West North-Central<br>United States                             | United States   |
|---|-------------------------|---|---|
| Total Population                            | 1,529,000               | 16,485,000  | 211,517,000   |
| Male  | 736,000 (48.1%)         | 8,045,000 (48.8%)   | 102,614,000 (48.5%)   |
| Female                                      | 793,000                 | 8,440,000   | 108,902,000   |
| Spanish-Origin Population                   | 24,000 (1.57% of Tot.)  | 139,000 (.84% of Tot.)  | 11,195,000 (5.29% of Tot.)                                    |
| Male  | 12,000 (50.0%)          | 69,000 (50.0%)  | 5,448,000 (48.7%)   |
| Female                                      | 12,000                  | 69,000  | 5,747,000   |
| Total Older (65+) Population                | 182,000 (11.9% of Tot.) | 1,942,000 (11.8% of Tot.)                                       | 21,720,000 (10.3% of Tot.)                                    |
| Male  | 71,000 (39.0%)          | 812,000 (41.8%)   | 8,929,000 (41.1%)   |
| Female                                      | 111,000                 | 1,130,000   | 12,791,000  |
| Older (65+)<br>Spanish-Origin<br>Population | —                       | 2,000 {<br>.01% of Tot Pop<br>1.4% of Sp Pop<br>.10% of Old Pop | 474,000 {<br>.22% of Tot<br>4.2% of Sp Pop<br>2.2% of Old Pop |
| Male  | —                       | —   | 220,000 (46.4%)   |
| Female                                      | —                       | 1,000   | 254,000   |

\* Figures released in intervals of one-thousand, based upon survey of 158,500 households.  
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports, Series P-20, Number 334*, "Demographic, Social, and Economic Profile of States: Spring, 1976." U.S. Government Printing Office: Washington, D.C. (January, 1979), Table 1.

| TABLE 3  |            |      |      |                   |      |      |
|--|------------|------|------|-------------------|------|------|
| COMPARISONS OF MEDIAN AGES AND PERCENT 65 OR OLDER,<br>1970 AND 1978 |            |      |      |                   |      |      |
|  | Median Age |      |      | Percent 65+ Years |      |      |
|  | 1970       | 1978 | CHNG | 1970              | 1978 | CHNG |
| United States total population                                       | 28.1       | 29.5 | +1.4 | 9.9               | 10.5 | +0.6 |
| United States population of Spanish origin                           | 21.1       | 22.1 | +1.0 | 4.5               | 4.3  | -0.2 |
| United States population of Mexican origin                           | 19.3       | 21.3 | +2.0 | 4.2               | 3.7  | -0.5 |

The general trends (indicative of a youthful Hispanic population with a declining proportion of elderly) do not suggest an absolute decline in the number of older Hispanics. Therefore, although the "older Hispanic" population does not account for the sizeable increases in either the Hispanic or the elderly populations in the United States, the numbers and needs of older Hispanics are likely to remain significantly large.

#### Omaha Numbers and Growth

Omaha's population has grown from 346,929 people in 1970 to an estimated 371,012 people in 1976; that growth amounts to an increase in population of 6.9 percent, or 1.2 percent annually (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1979a, p. 12). The Omaha SMSA has grown at a comparable rate.<sup>1</sup> The City of Omaha and the Omaha SMSA have grown, therefore, at a rate greater than that for the nation as a whole (.87 percent annually) during the 1970's (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1978a, p.1).

<sup>1</sup>An SMSA (Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area) as defined by the Bureau of the Census is an area of one or more counties focused upon a city with population of 50,000 or more.

Omaha's Hispanics. The Census reported that Omaha's Spanish-speaking population totaled 6,490 in 1970, or 1.9 percent of Omaha's total population (Table 1). Omaha's population of Mexican origins was reported as 1,629 in 1970, or approximately 0.5 percent of the total population and 25 percent of the Spanish speaking population. (See Table 1.)

Rough estimates of the size of Omaha's Mexican-American community for 1979 have been offered by leaders of the community and city officials as totaling within the range of 30,000 to 40,000 people (Burch, 1979). Other estimates place the size of the Mexican-American community at roughly 20,000 in 1979 (Nixon, 1979, p. 15).

Using the more conservative estimate and adjusting for the 14 percent undercount in 1970, an Hispanic population of 20,000 in Omaha in 1976 would suggest a growth rate of about 283 percent during the 1970's, or 28 percent annually. In spite of the vagaries of such estimation and in spite of the probable inaccuracy of the 1970 census figures (based upon the admitted undercount in 1970), Omaha's Hispanic community clearly will have grown considerably between the 1970 and 1980 censuses. In fact, Hispanic population growth during the 1970's should be greater than for any decade since at least the 1920's (Table 4). Omaha's Hispanic population should

TABLE 4

OMAHA'S HISPANIC POPULATION BY DECENNIAL CENSUS

| Census Year | Number | Growth in Previous Decade |
|-------------|--------|---------------------------|
| 1920        | 688    | -                         |
| 1940        | 390    | -43.3%                    |
| 1950        | 407    | 4.4%                      |
| 1960        | 1,547  | 280.0%                    |
| 1970        | 1,691  | 9.3%                      |

Source: Wheeler, 1975, p. 25 and 129.

reach a new record high by 1980. In addition, the rate of increase of Omaha's Hispanic population should far exceed the national Hispanic growth rate during the 1970's.

Omaha's Older Citizens. Data on the number and growth of Omaha's older citizens are available only on a county-wide basis for the late 1970's. Using the Douglas County figures, Omaha's older population grew from 1970 to 1976; the population of those 60 or more years grew at a rate of 5 percent, and the 65 or greater age group grew by 6.9 percent (U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, 1978, p. 72). The growth of the older population is occurring at the same rate as that for the total county population. Consequently, the proportion of the county population who are older (60+) has remained about the same from 1970 (13.3 percent) to 1976 (13.1 percent) (U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, 1978, p. 72, and Table 1).

Compared to national averages, Douglas county's older (60+) population has grown more slowly (5.0 percent) than the national rate (12.7 percent) from 1970 to 1976; consequently, the proportion of the total population which is elderly has increased nationally (from 14.1 percent in 1970 to 15.0 percent in 1976) but has remained virtually unchanged at the local county level. (U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, 1978, p. 72 and 130, and Table 1).

Omaha's Older Hispanics. Examination of the older Hispanic population at the local level is limited to the use of 1970 data; more recent data are unavailable at the local level. In addition, analysis of the older Mexican-American population at less than the national scale is precluded even for 1970, because of the small data base used in that year ( a 5 percent sample).

Locally, the older population, the Hispanic population, and the older-Hispanic population of Douglas County were each concentrated within the Omaha city limits in 1970 (95 percent, 92 percent, and 95 percent, respectively, using Table 1).<sup>1</sup> The older and Hispanic populations of Omaha, though growing during the 1970's, were relatively small proportions of the total population in 1970. Comparatively, Omaha's older population

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<sup>1</sup>This concentration within the city limits is, in part, attributable to the expansive size of Omaha within the county through its policy of active annexation.

as a percentage of its total population was less than that proportion for the state and region but was of a comparable proportion to the nation (Table 1). Omaha's Hispanic (Spanish-speaking) population as a proportion of the total was greater than that proportion for the state but significantly less than that for the nation.<sup>1</sup>

The older Hispanic population in 1970 was a small proportion of the total population, of the older population, and of the Hispanic population at all scales--local, state, and national. The older Hispanic population as a percentage of the total population was slightly greater for Omaha (.10 percent) than for the state (.06 percent) and was less than that for the nation (.29 percent). The older Hispanic population as a percentage of the total Spanish population was somewhat greater for Omaha (5.4 percent) than for the state (4.3 percent) but was less than that for the nation (6.7 percent).

The older Hispanic population as a proportion of all older people (60 or more years) was more for Omaha (.67 percent) than for the state (.36 percent) but significantly less than for the nation (2.1 percent). Therefore, the older Hispanic population of Omaha is proportionately greater than the state's and proportionately less than that for the nation, by whatever comparative measurement base.

The small size of the older Hispanic population at all scales may initially yield an impression of insignificance. In actuality, the reverse is true. The relatively small size of what should logically be a relatively needy group (a minority on fixed incomes, for example) could serve to inhibit the formation of a collective voice, and therefore the needs of this group may be relatively unknown or underestimated by those responsible for assistance to the aged, Hispanic, and/or older Hispanic groups.

An additional distinguishing characteristic of older Hispanics is apparent from the 1970 Census data and is worthy of note. That characteristic concerns the sex ratio of older Hispanics; that is, the proportion of older Hispanics who are male and female. (See Tables 1 and 5.)

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<sup>1</sup>The comparison of Hispanic population figures between areas must be viewed as tentative because of the differences in data bases at different scales--Spanish-speaking versus Spanish-origins.

| TABLE 5<br>MALE POPULATION AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL POPULATION<br>AMONG "OLDER" AGE CATEGORIES FOR TOTAL AND HISPANIC POPULATIONS<br>IN SPECIFIED AREAS 1970* |       |       |       |      |           |
|---|-------|-------|-------|------|-----------|
|   | 60-64 | 65-69 | 70-74 | 75+  | Total 60+ |
| United States - Total Population  | 46.7  | 44.7  | 42.5  | 39.0 | 43.4      |
| Spanish-Origin Population   | 47.5  | 47.9  | 46.9  | 44.2 | 46.8      |
| Mexican-Origin Population   | 49.7  | 49.6  | 48.8  | 47.2 | 48.9      |
| Nebraska - Total Population   | 47.6  | 44.3  | 44.2  | 40.5 | 43.9      |
| Spanish-Speaking  | 56.1  | 48.1  | 44.4  | 58.7 | 53.0      |
| Douglas County - Total Population   | 45.8  |       | 41.7  | 36.7 | 41.0      |
| Spanish-Speaking  | 60.5  |       | 45.9  | 69.8 | 56.4      |
| City of Omaha - Total Population  | 45.5  |       | 41.3  | 36.0 | 41.4      |
| Spanish-Speaking  | 60.5  |       | 48.7  | 65.8 | 56.6      |
| **"Older" refers to the population of 60 or more years of age.  |       |       |       |      |           |
| Sources: As Table 1.  |       |       |       |      |           |

At the national scale, men comprise less than half of the total older population of all groups--the total population, the population of Spanish origins, and the population of Mexican origins. However, males comprise a relatively larger proportion of the total older population within the Spanish origins (46.8 percent) and Mexican origins (48.9 percent) groups than within the general population (43.4 percent).

Locally, Nebraska's total older population consists of a slightly greater proportion of males, though still less than 50 percent. Nebraska's Spanish-speaking older population, on the other hand, consists of a significantly greater proportion of males, and men comprise the majority (53 percent) of older Spanish-speaking people.

Moreover, that disparity between the sex ratios of the older general population and the older Spanish-speaking population is more pronounced in Omaha and Douglas County. While 41.4 percent of the older population in Omaha is male, 56.6 percent of Omaha's older Spanish-speaking population is male.

The greater proportion of men among Omaha's older Hispanics (also reflected among the respondents of this survey) is likely to be attributable to the selective immigration of Mexicans by sex to the United States during the early decades of this century. During those years, single Mexican men or "solos" were attracted to Omaha by jobs--first with the railroads and later to the packing houses and stockyards (Nixon, 1979, p. 1-6). The trend was reinforced by the "bracero" program of 1942 and the labor demands of World War II (Nixon, 1979, p. 13). That selective migration is apparently reflected in Omaha's present Mexican-American population.





## SECTION IV

### DEMOGRAPHICS--RESPONDENT CHARACTERISTICS

#### Age

Older Omaha Hispanic respondents in this survey ranged from 60 to 93 years of age. The distribution of ages is displayed in Table 6.

| Table 6                                      |        |                        |     |        |                        |                          |        |                        |
|--|--------|------------------------|-----|--------|------------------------|--------------------------|--------|------------------------|
| AGE DISTRIBUTION OF OLDER HISPANICS IN OMAHA |        |                        |     |        |                        |                          |        |                        |
| Age  | Number | Percent<br>of<br>Total | Age | Number | Percent<br>of<br>Total | Age                      | Number | Percent<br>of<br>Total |
| 60   | 3      | 3.8                    | 70  | 4      | 5.1                    | 80                       | 4      | 5.1                    |
| 61   | 4      | 5.1                    | 71  | 3      | 3.8                    | 81                       | 6      | 7.6                    |
| 62   | 5      | 6.3                    | 72  | 1      | 1.3                    | 82                       | 1      | 1.3                    |
| 63   | 2      | 2.5                    | 73  | 3      | 3.8                    | 83                       | 1      | 1.3                    |
| 64   | 5      | 6.3                    | 74  | 2      | 2.5                    | 84                       | 1      | 1.3                    |
| 65   | 2      | 2.5                    | 75  | 2      | 2.5                    | 86                       | 1      | 1.3                    |
| 66   | 3      | 3.8                    | 76  | 2      | 2.5                    | 88                       | 1      | 1.3                    |
| 67   | 4      | 5.1                    | 77  | 3      | 3.8                    | 93                       | 2      | 2.5                    |
| 68   | 3      | 3.8                    | 78  | 4      | 5.1                    | TOTAL N = 79 (1 refused) |        |                        |
| 69   | 2      | 2.5                    | 79  | 5      | 6.3                    |                          |        |                        |

The grouping of ages by five-year intervals in Table 7 yields the expected pattern: a decreasing number of older citizens with increasing age, due to mortality. The age groupings also enable a comparison of the age distribution of older Hispanics in Omaha to the age distribution of older Nebraskans (Research Associates, 1978a and 1978b). The comparison

TABLE 7

## PERCENT OF OLDER CITIZENS BY AGE CATEGORIES BY GROUP

| Age Categories | Older Omaha<br>Hispanics | Older<br>Nebraskans<br>N=1720 | Older Nebraskans in<br>Eastern Region<br>N=213 |
|----------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| 60-64          | 24                       | 22                            | 21   |
| 65-69          | 18                       | 24                            | 24   |
| 70-74          | 17                       | 21                            | 23   |
| 75-79          | 20                       | 17                            | 15   |
| 80-84          | 17                       | 10                            | 10   |
| 85+            | 4                        | 6                             | 6  |
| Total          | 100                      | 100                           | 99   |

demonstrates a similar age distribution between Omaha's older Hispanics and Nebraska's older population. Closer examination, however, yields differences in the concentration of older citizens within the 65 to 74 and the 75 to 84 age categories between Omaha Hispanics and Nebraskans. A relatively lesser proportion of Omaha Hispanics falls within the 65 to 74 age grouping than does the general older Nebraska population, and a relatively greater proportion of Omaha Hispanics falls within the 75 to 84 age grouping, as compared to all older Nebraskans. Therefore, older Omaha Hispanics tend to be somewhat older than are older Nebraskans.

(The tests of statistical association between age and other variables in this analysis utilized a breakdown of age by decade. According to that categorization 42 percent of Omaha's older Hispanics are in their 60's, 37 percent in their 70's, and 21 percent in their 80's and 90's.)

### Sex

The categorization of older Omaha Hispanics by sex in Table 8 suggests a greater representation of males among older Hispanics than among the general population of older Nebraskans. The reasons for this tendency may lie with the sex composition of Hispanic immigrants earlier in the century.

| TABLE 8                                   |                                  |                               |  |
|---|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| PERCENT OF OLDER CITIZENS BY SEX BY GROUP |                                  |                               |  |
|   | Older Omaha<br>Hispanics<br>N=80 | Older<br>Nebraskans<br>N=1720 | Older Nebraskans in<br>Eastern Region<br>N=215 |
| Male                                      | 51                               | 41                            | 72   |
| Female                                    | 59                               | 59                            | 61   |
| Total                                     | <u>100</u>                       | <u>100</u>                    | <u>100</u>                                     |

Analysis of the sex distribution of older Omaha Hispanics by age categories in Table 9 demonstrates that women comprise a slight majority of those in their 60's and 70's, while men comprise a sizeable majority among the 80 or older age group.

| TABLE 9   |                                  |                                  |                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| SEX DISTRIBUTION OF OLDER HISPANICS BY AGE GROUPS, AS A PERCENT<br>N=79 |                                  |                                  |                                  |
|   | Omaha Hispanics<br>Ages 60 to 69 | Omaha Hispanics<br>Ages 70 to 79 | Omaha Hispanics<br>Ages 80 to 93 |
| Male  | 48                               | 48                               | 65                               |
| Female  | 52                               | 52                               | 35                               |
| Total   | <u>100</u>                       | <u>100</u>                       | <u>100</u>                       |

Birthplace/Ethnic Status

Eighty percent of older Omaha Hispanics surveyed were born in Mexico. (See Table 10.) However, 97 percent of respondents lived at some other location in the United States prior to their current Omaha residence, so most of Omaha's older Hispanics are not newly arrived immigrants and are not located at their first United States residence.

| TABLE 10                      |           |            |
|-------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| BIRTHPLACE OF OLDER HISPANICS |           |            |
| N=78                          |           |            |
|                               | Number    | Percent    |
| Born in Mexico                | 62        | 80         |
| Born in United States         | 16        | 20         |
| Total                         | <u>78</u> | <u>100</u> |

When Omaha's older Hispanics were asked how they would identify themselves when referring to their ethnic heritage (see Table 11), the majority

| TABLE 11                           |           |              |
|------------------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| ETHNIC IDENTITY OF OLDER HISPANICS |           |              |
| Ethnic Identity                    | Number    | Percent      |
| Hispanic                           | 2         | 2.5          |
| Mexican-American                   | 34        | 42.5         |
| Mexican                            | 42        | 52.5         |
| Indian                             | 2         | 2.5          |
| Total                              | <u>80</u> | <u>100.0</u> |

preferred to be identified as "Mexicans" (52.5 percent). "Mexican-American" was the second most frequently cited term and "Hispanic" next. The term "Chicano" was preferred by none of the respondents. Birthplace had a bearing upon self-identity. Proportionately more Hispanics born in the United States identified themselves as "Mexican-American," and proportionately more Hispanics born in Mexico identified themselves as "Mexican." No question was asked on current citizenship, so the number of older Omaha Hispanics without United States citizenship cannot be determined exactly. At a minimum, however, 53 percent of Omaha's older Hispanics must be United States citizens because that percentage is registered to vote.

When ethnic identity was compared to respondents' age and sex, (see Table 12), proportionately more men and proportionately more older persons (in their 80's rather than 60's) preferred to be identified as Mexican, rather than Mexican-American or Hispanic.

| TABLE 12   |          |        |          |      |      |
|--|----------|--------|----------|------|------|
| ETHNIC IDENTITY OF OLDER HISPANICS BY SEX AND AGE GROUP,<br>AS A PERCENT |          |        |          |      |      |
| Ethnic Identity  | Sex = 80 |        | Age N=79 |      |      |
|  | Male     | Female | 60's     | 70's | 80's |
| Mexican-American/Hispanic  | 42       | 49     | 48       | 45   | 35   |
| Mexican  | 58       | 46     | 46       | 55   | 65   |
| Indian   | 0        | 5      | 6        | 0    | 0    |
| Total  | 100      | 100    | 100      | 100  | 100  |

### Religious Affiliation

The religious affiliation of older Omaha Hispanics was predominantly, but not exclusively, Roman Catholic. The distribution of religious affiliations is displayed in Table 13.

| TABLE 13                                 |           |            |
|--|-----------|------------|
| RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION OF OLDER HISPANICS |           |            |
|  | Number    | Percent    |
| Roman Catholic                           | 75        | 94         |
| Assembly of God                          | 3         | 4          |
| Lutheran                                 | 1         | 1          |
| Pentecostal                              | 1         | 1          |
| Total                                    | <u>80</u> | <u>100</u> |

#### Education

Several questions related to education/literacy were asked in the survey. The responses to these questions were not always consistent.

To the question "Did you ever attend school?", 52 of 78 respondents (or 67 percent) stated yes; 26 of the 78 respondents (or 33 percent) said no,

A more detailed breakdown of respondents' school attendance was achieved by soliciting the "last year of school completed" for each respondent in Table 14. Whereas 26 responded "no" to the question "Did you

| TABLE 14  |           |            |
|---|-----------|------------|
| EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF OLDER OMAHA HISPANICS |           |            |
| Grade Level Completed                           | Number    | Percent    |
| No formal education                             | 29        | 37         |
| Primary (K-6)                                   | 27        | 35         |
| Intermediate (7-9)                              | 7         | 9          |
| Secondary (10-11)                               | 5         | 6          |
| Secondary graduate (12)                         | 6         | 8          |
| Post-secondary, business/trade                  | 1         | 1          |
| Post-secondary, college                         | 3         | 4          |
| Total   | <u>78</u> | <u>100</u> |

ever attend school?", 29 respondents selected the "no formal education" response to the question of "last year of school completed." From the breakdown of grade level completed, older Omaha Hispanics clearly had received relatively low levels of formal education.

Comparison of education levels of older Omaha Hispanics to the general older Nebraskan population demonstrates the extent of educational deprivation faced by the Hispanics. (See Table 15.) Although comparisons are difficult, due to the differences in education categories between this and the statewide study, the disparities at the gross level are clear.

| TABLE 15   |                                    |                               |
|--|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| PERCENTAGE COMPARISON OF EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT<br>BETWEEN HISPANIC AND GENERAL POPULATION |                                    |                               |
|  | Omaha's Older<br>Hispanics<br>N=78 | Older<br>Nebraskans<br>N=1720 |
| "No Formal Education" (Omaha Survey)   | 37                                 |                               |
| "Zero to Four Years" (Statewide Survey)  |                                    | 1                             |
| Zero to some high school   | 87                                 | 50                            |
| High school graduate   | 8                                  | 24                            |
| Post-high, business/trade school   | 1                                  | 5                             |
| Some college   | 4                                  | 11                            |
| College or advanced degrees  | 0                                  | 10                            |
| Total  | 100                                | 100                           |

The reasons for the disparity in educational attainment between older Hispanics and the general older population are undoubtedly complex. Place of education would account for some of the disparity. (See Table 16.) Thirty-five percent of those older Hispanics with some formal education were educated in Mexico; the remaining 65 percent were educated in the United States. With compulsory education coming later and enforced less rigidly in Mexico than in the United States, those Hispanics born and raised in Mexico would be less likely to achieve levels of education comparable to Hispanics and non-Hispanics raised in the United States.



| TABLE 16  |               |                                    |
|---|---------------|------------------------------------|
| PERCENT OF HISPANICS EDUCATED IN UNITED STATES AND MEXICO<br>N=79 |               |                                    |
|   | All Hispanics | Hispanics With<br>Formal Education |
| Educated in United States   | 43            | 65                                 |
| Educated in Mexico  | 23            | 35                                 |
| No formal education   | 34            | --                                 |
| Total   | 100           | 100                                |

While 80 percent of older Omaha Hispanics were born in Mexico, only 23 percent were educated there. Comparison of birthplace with place of education demonstrates that proportionately more Hispanics born in Mexico gained no formal education than did Hispanics born in the United States, and proportionately as many Mexican-born Hispanics were educated in the United States as in Mexico. For those Mexicans migrating to the United States between their birth and their formal education, the financial and residential status of their families would mitigate against achieving higher levels of education. That is, since the families of older Omaha Hispanics migrated to the United States with few resources (comparable to other immigrant groups) and also tended to be more transient initially, the ability of Hispanic children to pursue adequate and incremental education was (and continues to be) relatively less than that for the general population.

#### Literacy

In addition to the questions on educational attainment, respondents were asked whether they could read and in which language(s). (See Table 17.) More than two-thirds (68 percent) of all Hispanics, and 77 percent of literate Hispanics were bilingual. Although 34 percent of Hispanics received no formal education, only 11 percent said they could read neither English nor Spanish. Thus, the difference between the "uneducated" and

| TABLE 17   |                          |                               |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| PERCENT OF HISPANICS LITERATE IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH |                          |                               |
|  | All<br>Hispanics<br>N=79 | Literate<br>Hispanics<br>N=70 |
| Read neither language                                | 11                       | --                            |
| Read Spanish   | 19                       | 21                            |
| Read English   | 1                        | 1                             |
| Read both languages                                  | 68                       | 77                            |
| Total  | 99                       | 99                            |

"illiterate" groups within the older Hispanic population is sizeable.

In comparing literacy to age, proportionately more older Hispanics (in their 80's rather than 60's) were found to be illiterate, and proportionately more younger Hispanics (in their 60's rather than 80's) were bilingual, so literacy by sex suggests that men are both proportionately less literate and more apt to be bilingual than women.

#### Employment Status

Defining older Omaha Hispanics as 60 or more years of age is bound to result in both employed and retired persons being included within the grouping. Thus, approximately 71 percent of older Omaha Hispanics are retired and 13 percent are currently working with only 7 percent working full-time. (See Table 18.)

| TABLE 18                             |        |         |
|--------------------------------------|--------|---------|
| EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF OLDER HISPANICS |        |         |
|                                      | Number | Percent |
| Working/unemployed                   | 10     | 13      |
| Retired                              | 54     | 71      |
| Never worked outside home            | 12     | 16      |
| Total                                | 76     | 100     |

When employment status is compared to other demographic variations in Table 19, several associations were found to be significant, including those between employment status and (1) sex, (2) age, and (3) head of household. Employment status as differentiated by sex yields a greater proportion of female older Hispanics currently working than males. Those tendencies are at least partly attributable to the relatively younger ages of female older Hispanics.

| TABLE 19  |      |        |      |      |      |
|---|------|--------|------|------|------|
| EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF OLDER HISPANICS BY SEX AND AGE, AS A PERCENT<br>N=76 |      |        |      |      |      |
| Employment Status   | Sex  |        | Age  |      |      |
|   | Male | Female | 60's | 70's | 80's |
| Working/unemployed  | 5    | 22     | 28   | 4    | 0    |
| Retired   | 92   | 48     | 63   | 69   | 88   |
| Never worked outside home   | 3    | 30     | 9    | 27   | 12   |
| Total   | 100  | 100    | 100  | 100  | 100  |

Most self-identified heads-of-households among older Hispanics (81 percent) were retired; however, 56 percent of employed older Hispanics considered themselves heads-of households, and 58 percent of those older Hispanics who had never worked outside the home also labeled themselves as heads-of-households. Thus, the heads-of-households included men and women, some of whom were divorced/widowed/separated.

A comparison of the employment status of older Hispanics to the employment status of older Nebraskans yields several differences between groups. (See Table 20.) A greater proportion of older Nebraskans are working beyond age 60 than are older Hispanics. Two considerations to bear in mind in explaining that difference are: (1) the older age distribution of older Hispanics and (2) the difference in the residential environments of the two groups--urban and rural (whereby many farmers tend to work beyond the traditional retirement age of urban occupations).

| TABLE 20   |                                  |                               |  |
|--|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| PERCENT OF OLDER CITIZENS PER EMPLOYMENT STATUS BY GROUP |                                  |                               |  |
|  | Older Omaha<br>Hispanics<br>N=76 | Older<br>Nebraskans<br>N=1720 | Older Nebraskans in<br>Eastern Region<br>N=215 |
| Working/unemployed                                       | 13                               | 21                            | 14   |
| Retired  | 71                               | 75                            | 82   |
| Never worked outside home                                | 16                               | 4                             | 5  |
| Total  | <u>100</u>                       | <u>100</u>                    | <u>101</u>                                     |

A second difference between groups is the significantly higher proportion of older Hispanics (16 percent) who have never worked outside the home compared to the older Nebraskans who have never done so (4 percent).

#### Occupational Structure

The former and current employment of Omaha's older Hispanics was classified by occupational structure according to a variation of the U.S. Department of Labor's occupation classification scheme. The breakdown of Omaha's older Hispanics by job classification appears in Table 21.

| TABLE 21                                     |                       |            |                              |            |                     |            |
|--|-----------------------|------------|------------------------------|------------|---------------------|------------|
| EMPLOYMENT CLASSIFICATION OF OLDER HISPANICS |                       |            |                              |            |                     |            |
| Job Category                                 | Current<br>Employment |            | Pre-retirement<br>Employment |            | Total<br>Employment |            |
|  | Number                | Percent    | Number                       | Percent    | Number              | Percent    |
| Laborers                                     | 0                     | 0          | 2                            | 5          | 2                   | 4          |
| Service workers                              | 3                     | 37         | 6                            | 14         | 9                   | 18         |
| Operatives                                   | 3                     | 37         | 34                           | 81         | 37                  | 74         |
| Craftsmen                                    | 1                     | 13         | -                            | -          | 1                   | 2          |
| Clerical                                     | 1                     | 13         | -                            | -          | 1                   | 2          |
| Total  | <u>N=8</u>            | <u>100</u> | <u>N=42</u>                  | <u>100</u> | <u>N=50</u>         | <u>100</u> |

The concentration of older Hispanics within the "operative" category is attributable to the considerable employment in the meat-packing industry. (The concentration of respondents within the operative employment category precluded testing the statistical association of employment with any other demographic variable.)

The comparison of employment among older Hispanics to employment among older Nebraskans yields rather marked differences. (See Table 22). Employment among the retired Hispanics is concentrated within one category (operatives, service workers, and laborers), and that restricted distribution documents the exclusion of retired Hispanics from higher status employment categories. For currently employed older Hispanics the employment breakdown is nearly as restricted. Part of the explanation for these employment variations lies in the differences in educational opportunity and achievements between the two groups (discussed earlier).

| TABLE 22<br>PERCENT OF OLDER CITIZENS PER EMPLOYMENT CATEGORY BY GROUP  |                                       |                               |   |                                      |                              |  |
|---|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Employment Category<br><br>Category for this study<br>(Statewide Study) | Pre-retirement Employment             |                               |   | Current Employment                   |                              |  |
|   | Omaha's<br>Older<br>Hispanics<br>N=54 | Older<br>Nebraskans<br>N=1290 | Older<br>Nebraskans in<br>Eastern Region<br>N=176 | Omaha's<br>Older<br>Hispanics<br>N=8 | Older<br>Nebraskans<br>N=447 | Older<br>Nebraskans in<br>Eastern Region<br>N=28 |
| Manager-proprietor<br>(Executive and<br>Manager-professional)           | —                                     | 21                            | 21  | —                                    | 25                           | 30   |
| Craftsman<br>(Foreman and skilled)                                      | —                                     | 9                             | 15  | 12.5                                 | 8                            | 7  |
| Clerical<br>(Clerical-sales)  | —                                     | 13                            | 21  | 12.5                                 | 11                           | 15   |
| Operative, Serviceworker, and<br>Laborer<br>(Semiskilled and unskilled) | 78                                    | 31                            | 35  | 75                                   | 32                           | 39   |
| Farm  | —                                     | 17                            | 3   | —                                    | 15                           | 7  |
| Homemaker   | 22                                    | 11                            | 6   | —                                    | 7                            | —  |
| Other   | —                                     | —                             | —   | —                                    | 2                            | 8  |
| Total   | 100                                   | 102*                          | 101*  | 100                                  | 100                          | 106*   |
| *Percentages are as reported in Research Associates, 1978, a and b.     |                                       |                               |   |                                      |                              |  |

## Income

Older Omaha Hispanics were less responsive to the question on personal income than to any other single question except cost of housing. The low response rate for this type of question is typical of survey research. Nevertheless, 53 of the 80 individual respondents, or 66 percent, gave income information when solicited.

The reported monthly incomes of individual older Omaha Hispanics ranged from \$122, to \$1,046; these figures are equivalent to \$1,464 to \$12,522 annually. The distribution of incomes is displayed in Table 23. The mean (arithmetic average) income among reporting older Omaha Hispanic individuals was \$446.79 per month, or \$5,361.48 per year; the median was \$355 per month, or \$4,260 per year.

| TABLE 23<br>DISTRIBUTION OF MONTHLY INDIVIDUAL INCOMES AMONG OLDER HISPANICS<br>N=53 |        |         |                        |        |         |
|--|--------|---------|------------------------|--------|---------|
| Monthly Income<br>(\$)   | Number | Percent | Monthly Income<br>(\$) | Number | Percent |
| 101-200  | 8      | 15      | 601-700                | 2      | 4       |
| 201-300  | 12     | 23      | 701-800                | 4      | 8       |
| 301-400  | 11     | 21      | 801-900                | 1      | 2       |
| 401-500  | 9      | 17      | 901-100                | 3      | 6       |
| 501-600  | 1      | 2       | 1001-1100              | 2      | 4       |

When income was compiled by household income categories, income data were available for 44 of the 66 households surveyed or 67 percent (a percentage of response comparable to the individual income reported). The distribution of monthly household incomes by categories of income appears in Table 24.

This distribution shows that nearly half (48 percent) of Omaha's older Hispanic households reporting income received from \$201 to \$400 per month (\$2,400 to \$4,800 per year); nearly two-thirds (64 percent) received from \$201 to \$500 per month (\$2,400 to \$6,000 per year); and in excess of three-fourths (77 percent) received \$500 or less per month (\$6,000 per year).

TABLE 24

DISTRIBUTION OF MONTHLY HOUSEHOLD INCOMES  
AMONG OLDER OMAHA HISPANICS

| Monthly Household Income(\$) | Number of Households | Percent of Households |
|------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1- 200                       | 6                    | 14                    |
| 201- 300                     | 11                   | 25                    |
| 301- 400                     | 10                   | 23                    |
| 401- 500                     | 7                    | 16                    |
| 501- 800                     | 5                    | 11                    |
| 801-1100                     | 5                    | 11                    |
| Total                        | 44                   | 100                   |

According to HUD guidelines, a "low income" household is one which earns 80 percent or less of the median income (of comparably sized households) for the county in which the household resides. Using these criteria, there were at most only four older Hispanic households, as differentiated by household size, which fell above low income status. (See Table 25.)

TABLE 25

ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME AS DIFFERENTIATED BY SIZE OF HOUSEHOLD  
N=44

| Annual Household<br>Income(\$)* | Number in Households |          |                              |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|----------|------------------------------|
|                                 | 1-Person             | 2-Person | 3-or-more Person             |
| 0- 2,400                        | 3                    | 3        | -                            |
| 2,401- 3,600                    | 5                    | 5        | 1                            |
| 3,601- 4,800                    | 3                    | 6        | 1                            |
| 4,801- 6,000                    | 1                    | 3        | 3                            |
| 6,001- 9,600                    | -                    | 1        | 4                            |
| 9,601-13,200                    | -                    | 3        | 2                            |
|                                 |                      |          | .....Low-income<br>threshold |

\* Douglas/Sarpy Counties "low income" threshold values for 1978 are: \$9,350 for one-person households, \$10,700 for two-person households, and \$12,000 for three-person households

At least 40 of the 44 (or 91 percent) older Hispanic households reporting incomes, therefore, fall within the low income status category.

A comparison of older Omaha Hispanic households and older Nebraskan households reinforces the pattern of lower incomes among older Hispanics. (See Table 26.) When income categories devised for the state-wide survey are used, a disproportionately greater number of Hispanic households fall within the lowest three income categories (and particularly the lowest category) than did older Nebraska households. Significantly fewer older Hispanic households fell within the highest income category.

| TABLE 26   |                                  |                              |  |
|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| PERCENT OF OLDER HOUSEHOLDS PER INCOME CATEGORY BY GROUP             |                                  |                              |  |
| Annual Household<br>Income (\$)                                      | Older Omaha<br>Hispanics<br>N=44 | Older<br>Nebraskans<br>N=912 | Older Nebraskans<br>in Eastern Nebraska<br>N=125 |
| Less than 1,500  | 7                                | 2                            | 3  |
| 1,500-3,688  | 32                               | 29                           | 35   |
| 3,689-4,610  | 18                               | 10                           | 10   |
| 4,611-5,400  | 9                                | 10                           | 7  |
| Over 5,400   | 34                               | 49                           | 44   |
|  | <u>100</u>                       | <u>100</u>                   | <u>99</u>  |
| * Respondents were allowed to select more than one source of income. |                                  |                              |  |

Several regularities also exist among older Hispanic households as related to income. Households headed by males tended to have higher household incomes than those headed by females. Incomes tended to decrease with increasing ages of households. Larger households tended to have greater incomes, and married households tended to have greater incomes than widowed/separated/divorced households. Finally, household income tended to increase as level of schooling increased.

#### Sources of Income

Older Omaha Hispanics receive financial support from several sources. Those sources of income are enumerated in Table 27, using the total number



| TABLE 27   |                      |                                   |
|--|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| SOURCES OF INCOME FOR OLDER HISPANICS*                               |                      |                                   |
| Source of Income   | Number of Recipients | Percent of All Respondents (N=80) |
| Social Security  | 64                   | 80                                |
| Retirement fund  | 36                   | 45                                |
| Earnings   | 9                    | 11                                |
| Family/friends   | 7                    | 9                                 |
| Savings  | 3                    | 4                                 |
| Welfare  | 2                    | 3                                 |
| * Respondents were allowed to select more than one source of income. |                      |                                   |

of older Hispanics (N = 80). Since several sources of income may be utilized by an individual, the column labeled "number of recipients" totals to more than 80 individuals.

Recall that 54 of the older Omaha Hispanics are retired. Since the 11 female older Hispanics who have never worked outside the home were formerly married, those 11 may be added to the retired 54 to yield the number eligible for Social Security benefits. Dividing the 64 receiving benefits by the 65 eligible yields a Social Security participation rate of 98.5 percent among the 76 respondents. Of those individuals receiving Social Security benefits, a slightly greater proportion were female, and greater than a majority were married.

Those older Hispanics receiving income from a retirement fund represent greater than a majority (55 percent) of the 66 non-working individuals. Twice as many Hispanic men as women received retirement fund incomes, and the majority of pension receivers were in their 70's, with the fewest in their 80's. Married persons tended to be the most numerous beneficiaries of retirement funds, and pension receivers tended to be distributed evenly across all income levels, except the very lowest.

#### Household Status and Composition

Marital status may be considered an individual or a household characteristic. Viewed first as an individual characteristic, older Omaha Hispanics (N = 80) can be characterized by their marital status.

Proportionately more of the younger Hispanics (in their 60's) were married than were older Hispanics (in their 70's and 80's). Those never married comprised a minority at all ages. In addition, a considerably greater proportion of singles (never married) were male (78 percent), though the majority of males were married (58 percent). Women, on the other hand, comprised 64 percent of those Hispanics divorced, separated, or widowed, and proportionately as many women were divorced/separated/widowed as were married.

Marital status, as a household characteristic, is displayed in Table 28. The marital status of older Omaha Hispanics is compared to the marital status of older Nebraskans in that table. Most notably, a clearly greater proportion of singles occurred among older Omaha Hispanics than among the general older population.

| TABLE 28   |                                  |                               |  |
|--|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| PERCENT OF OLDER HOUSEHOLDS BY MARITAL STATUS BY GROUP |                                  |                               |  |
| Marital Status   | Older Omaha<br>Hispanics<br>N=65 | Older<br>Nebraskans<br>N=1720 | Older Nebraskans<br>In Eastern Region<br>N=213 |
| Single   | 11                               | 5                             | 3  |
| Married  | 46                               | 56                            | 51   |
| Divorced/separated                                     | 43                               | 40                            | 46   |
| Total  | <u>100</u>                       | <u>101</u>                    | <u>100</u>                                     |

An alternate way of assessing household composition is to ask the survey question, "Who do you live with?" (44c) The responses of older Hispanic households to that question and a comparison of those responses for all older Nebraskans are displayed in Table 29. A comparison of the

| TABLE 29   |                               |                            |   |
|--|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| LIVING ARRANGEMENTS OF OLDER CITIZENS BY GROUP, AS A PERCENT |                               |                            |   |
| Living Arrangements  | Older Omaha Hispanics<br>N=66 | Older Nebraskans<br>N=1720 | Older Nebraskans in Eastern Region<br>N=215 |
| Live alone   | 27                            | 37                         | 41  |
| Live with spouse   | 47                            | 54                         | 49  |
| Live with others   | 26                            | 10                         | 10  |
| Total  | 100                           | 101                        | 100   |

table on living arrangements to the table on marital status yields an interesting pattern. Although there were proportionately more single households among older Hispanics than among older Nebraskans, proportionately fewer older Hispanics were living alone as compared to older Nebraskans. The difference between the 54 percent of older Hispanic households either single, widowed, or divorced/separated and the 27 percent of older Hispanic households with lone occupants is the 26 older Hispanic households whose living arrangements were with others. Those others are the children, relatives, and friends of the older Hispanics. Evidence is found in these data of the extended familial bonds for which Mexican-Americans are noted and of the financial realities which prompt unrelated older Hispanics to take up residence in common households.

Examination of the size of households among older Hispanics in Table 30 parallels the pattern of living arrangements for that group. Within the older Hispanic group, younger households (with respondents in 60's rather than 70's or 80's) tended to be larger, and male respondents tended to report larger households than did female respondents.

| TABLE 30  |                               |                             |  |
|---|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| SIZE OF HOUSEHOLD FOR OLDER CITIZENS BY GROUP, AS A PERCENT   |                               |                             |  |
| Number in Household   | Older Omaha Hispanics<br>N=65 | Older Nebraskans*<br>N=1720 | Older Nebraskans in Eastern Region*<br>N=215 |
| 1   | 28                            | 51                          | 55   |
| 2   | 48                            | 48                          | 43   |
| 3 or more   | 25                            | 4                           | 2  |
| Total   | <u>101</u>                    | <u>103</u>                  | <u>100</u>                                   |
| * Only those family members 60 years of age or older are included, and figures appear as reported in the Research Associates' report. |                               |                             |  |

Finally, 35 percent of the household respondents said they were heads of their households.

## SECTION V

### RESIDENTIAL/ENVIRONMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS

Omaha's Hispanic households are concentrated in an area of southeast Omaha, known traditionally as South Omaha. The current residential locations of those older Omaha Hispanics surveyed for this study are shown on the map on page

#### Housing Type

Omaha's older Hispanic households resided predominantly in individual, private houses (89 percent), and the remaining minority occupied apartment units (11 percent). Both males and females were predominantly house dwellers, and the younger (in their 60's) among older Hispanics were slightly more prone to be apartment dwellers (19 percent) than were the older (in their 70's and 80's) (4 and 6 percent, respectively). Interestingly, all single-person households resided in houses, while 7 percent of married households were in apartments, and 18 percent of divorced/separated/widowed households were in apartments.

Comparing the housing types of older Hispanic households to older Nebraskan households in Table 31 demonstrated that the older Nebraskans, and particularly older Nebraskans in the Eastern Region, were less concentrated in individual, private houses than were Hispanics. While no older Hispanics were housed in "other" types of residences (including senior citizen facilities, mobile homes, health-care facilities, and furnished rooms), a full 10 percent of older Nebraskans resided in such facilities. The absence of Hispanics in "other" types of housing may reflect the familial ties within the Hispanic group, but it may also reflect the sampling procedure used in this analysis. (See Appendix I.)

| TABLE 31   |                                  |                               |  |
|--|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| OLDER HOUSEHOLDS BY TYPE OF HOUSING BY GROUP, AS A PERCENT |                                  |                               |  |
| Type of Housing  | Older Omaha<br>Hispanics<br>N=66 | Older<br>Nebraskans<br>N=1720 | Older Nebraskans<br>in Eastern Region<br>N=215 |
| House  | 89                               | 83                            | 77   |
| Apartment  | 11                               | 7                             | 14   |
| Other  | 0                                | 10                            | 8  |
| Total  | <u>100</u>                       | <u>100</u>                    | <u>99</u>                                      |

#### Housing Tenure

Paralleling type of housing is the housing tenure (ownership or renting) of households. (See Table 32.) Though the percentage of home ownership for older Omaha Hispanics was high (73 percent), it was considerably less than the percentage of house occupancy (89 percent), so a sizeable proportion of older Hispanics residing in houses rented those structures.

| TABLE 32   |                                  |                               |  |
|--|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| PERCENT OF OLDER HOUSEHOLDS BY HOUSING TENURE BY GROUP |                                  |                               |  |
| Housing Tenure   | Older Omaha<br>Hispanics<br>N=66 | Older<br>Nebraskans<br>N=1720 | Older Nebraskans<br>in Eastern Region<br>N=215 |
| Own  | 73                               | 77                            | 68   |
| Rent   | 27                               | 23                            | 31   |
| Total  | <u>100</u>                       | <u>100</u>                    | <u>99</u>                                      |

Home ownership among older Hispanics showed the tendency to increase with age. Men and women were equally likely to be among home owning households. Though the differences were not great, marrieds tended to own their residences more than did singles, and divorced/separated/widowed tended to own least and rent most.

The comparison of ownership among older Hispanic households with ownership among older Nebraskans demonstrated that a smaller proportion of Hispanic households owned their residences than all older Nebraskans. However, a greater proportion of older Hispanics owned their residences than older Nebraskans in the Eastern Region.

#### Homestead Tax Exemption

When older Omaha Hispanic homeowners were asked whether they had "heard of" the homestead tax exemption program, 79 percent responded that they had. Of those older Hispanic households who had heard of the program, 79 percent participated in the program. The computation of those households which had both heard of and participated in the program out of the total number of home owners yielded a participation rate of 62 percent.

Comparing these results for older Omaha Hispanics against those for older Nebraskans was made difficult by the differences in working between the two surveys. While the Hispanic survey differentiated between knowledge of and participation in the homestead tax exemption program, the statewide survey asked only whether households had applied for exemption status. Assuming that "application for" status would be equivalent to "participation," then older Hispanics demonstrated a lower participation rate (64 percent) than did both older Nebraskans (72 percent) and older Nebraskans in the Eastern Region (83 percent).

#### Length of Residence

The length of residence of Omaha's older Hispanic households tended to be rather evenly distributed over the past four decades. (See Table 33.) Half of Omaha's older Hispanics have lived in their present residence more than 20 years, so the older Hispanics appeared to be relatively less mobile.

| TABLE 33   |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| LENGTH OF RESIDENCE OF OMAHA'S OLDER HISPANIC HOUSEHOLDS<br>N=66 |                       |
| Number of Years  | Percent of Households |
| 1 - 10   | 24                    |
| 11 - 20  | 26                    |
| 21 - 30  | 21                    |
| 31 - 40  | 20                    |
| 41 - 56  | 9                     |
| Total  | <u>100</u>            |

Analysis of older Hispanic households' residential mobility by sex demonstrated a relatively greater proportion of men among residents of shortest duration (one to ten years), a relative balance by sex among residents of 11 to 30 years duration, and a relatively greater proportion of females among residents of longest duration (31 or more years). Comparing length of residence to age of older Hispanic households yielded little regular variation.

The comparison of length of residence for older Hispanics with length of residence of older Nebraskans in Table 34 demonstrated that older Hispanics were less residentially mobile than older Nebraskans in general, particularly within the most recent five-year period. That relatively greater tendency to stay at a particular residential location may be partially attributable to the atypical employment structure of the older Hispanics. With professional positions absent from the employment structure of older Hispanics, moves attributable to professional transfers were non-existent. When employment structure is coupled with the strong familial ties of the group, the motivation for lengthy or frequent moves is lessened. In addition, of course, the relative concentration of Omaha's Hispanics in South Omaha (attributable, in part, to housing discrimination and lower income status) would make within-city moves away from South Omaha less likely, and the rate of movement within the South Omaha area would be dependent upon a relatively restricted established housing supply.



| TABLE 34  |                                  |                               |  |
|---|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| PERCENT OF OLDER HOUSEHOLDS BY LENGTH OF RESIDENCE BY GROUP |                                  |                               |  |
| Length of Residence   | Older Omaha<br>Hispanics<br>N=66 | Older<br>Nebraskans<br>N=1720 | Older Nebraskans<br>in Eastern Region<br>N=215 |
| < 2 years   | 3                                | 10                            | 9  |
| 2 - < 3 years   | 1                                | 5                             | 4  |
| 3 - < 5 years   | 4                                | 7                             | 5  |
| 5 - < 10 years  | 11                               | 12                            | 12   |
| 10 - < 15 years   | 11                               | 12                            | 13   |
| 15 - < 20 years   | 12                               | 10                            | 13   |
| 20 or more years  | 57                               | 44                            | 45   |
| Total   | 99                               | 100                           | 101  |

In addition to length of residence at their current locations, Omaha's older Hispanics were asked where they formerly lived. (See Table 35.) Ninety percent of all respondents cited the City of Omaha, 52 percent cited the same neighborhood and 38 percent cited some other neighborhood, so Omaha's older Hispanics were even less residentially mobile than length of current location alone would suggest.

| TABLE 35   |         |
|--|---------|
| FORMER LOCATION OF OLDER HISPANICS, AS A PERCENT<br>N=79 |         |
| Former Location  | Percent |
| Same neighborhood  | 52      |
| Other neighborhood                                       | 38      |
| Out of city  | 6       |
| Out of state   | 1       |
| Out of country   | 3       |
| Total  | 100     |

### Access to Housing

When asked whether they had had trouble finding their current residences, only 15 percent of older Omaha Hispanics said yes. When asked what the problem was, 6 percent cited availability (supply) of housing as the problem, 3 percent cited cost, and the remaining 6 percent selected "other" as their trouble but did not specify the nature of the problem. The relative absence of problems with housing acquisition may be associated with the length of time that older Hispanics have resided both at their present home and in Omaha. The lengthy residency in essentially one location should foster a greater familiarity with that location's housing market and fewer "surprises" (and therefore perceived problems) for the resident. "Trouble finding" their current residences refers to a search for housing that may have taken place decades ago. Contemporary problems may have been less severe or absent at the time, accepted as unavoidable, and/or long-since forgotten.

### Housing Costs

Information on housing costs was solicited from all 80 older Hispanic respondents. The overall response rate to this question (45 percent) was the lowest of the survey, even lower than the response to the income question. However, due to differences in rental and ownership expense, the two categories of housing costs were separated. The response rates for the separate categories were 67 percent for renters (though few in number) and 37 percent for owners. The numbers of older Hispanics citing housing costs in each of several categories are listed in Table 36. Further analysis is inappropriate due to the small data base.

Additionally, several respondents cited no (zero) housing costs because of mortgages paid in full or residency with relatives. Fifty percent of all renters said that utility costs were included in their rents.

TABLE 36

## HOUSING COSTS OF OLDER HISPANICS

| Renters (N=14) |        | Owners (N=22) |        |
|----------------|--------|---------------|--------|
| Cost Category  | Number | Cost Category | Number |
| \$ 1 - 50      | 3      | \$ 1 - 50     | 3      |
| 51 - 75        | 6      | 51 - 75       | 5      |
| 76 - 100       | 3      | 101 - 150     | 8      |
| 101 - 125      | 2      | 251 -1000     | 3      |

## SECTION VI

### INTERACTIONS - PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL

Older Americans are sometimes stereotyped as a population which seldom leaves its residences because of the lack of ability or inclination, and that lack of ability is often attributed to problems of mental or physical health. The results of this survey (and the statewide survey of older Nebraskans) dispel that stereotype and demonstrate the types of activities and degrees of participation of older people. Nevertheless, some older Americans live in relative isolation--isolation from other people, from activities, and from needed services. Serving those individuals, although at times the minority, is the ultimate objective of this and comparable studies.

#### Physical Mobility

Older Omaha Hispanics are a predominantly ambulatory group, judging by their responses to the basic question, "How often do you get out of your home?". (See Table 37.) Furthermore, their physical mobility is comparable to that enjoyed by older Nebraskans in general, although that mobility occurs proportionately on a weekly basis for older Hispanics and occurs more on a daily basis for older Nebraskans.<sup>1</sup>

Differentiating the frequency of mobility by age demonstrates a strong statistical association between age and frequency of physical mobility; the younger among older Hispanics got out more frequently than did the older in the group. Some of that mobility of relatively younger Hispanics is due to the fact that they continue to be employed. Differentiating frequency of mobility by sex suggested that men are somewhat more likely to get out of the house daily, while women were more likely to get out a few times per

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<sup>1</sup>The responses to a question such as this may be influenced by the time of year when the question is asked; less restrictive times such as summer should positively bias the responses, and more restrictive times such as winter should negatively influence the results. This survey was conducted during the spring season.

| TABLE 37  |                                  |    |                               |    |  |    |
|---|----------------------------------|----|-------------------------------|----|--|----|
| FREQUENCY OF PHYSICAL MOBILITY FOR OLDER GROUPS, AS A PERCENT   |                                  |    |                               |    |  |    |
| Frequency<br>Out of House   | Older Omaha<br>Hispanics<br>N=79 |    | Older<br>Nebraskans<br>N=1720 |    | Older Nebraskans<br>in Eastern Region<br>N=215 |    |
| Daily   | 54                               | 89 | 65                            | 88 | 53   | 83 |
| Few time per week   | 35                               |    | 23                            |    | 30   |    |
| Less often*   | 10                               |    | 11                            |    | 16   |    |
| Total   | 99                               |    | 99                            |    | 99   |    |
| * Less often includes: Few times/month, once/month, several times/year once/year, and never. For this survey, these total to 1, 2, 3, 1, 1, respectively. |                                  |    |                               |    |  |    |

week than they were daily. Again, this may be due in part to the continuing employment of younger men. Finally, those older Hispanics with the highest incomes tended to be the most consistently able to get out of the house daily, and these also tended to be working people.

#### Manner of Mobility

A second aspect of physical mobility is the method of transportation used. In this respect, older Hispanics show some differences from the general population of older Nebraskans. (See Table 38.) Both groups were asked how they usually got around and were allowed to select more than one mode of transportation so the percentages for each group total to more than 100.

Older Hispanics were comparable to older Nebraskans in the percentage of older citizens who walked to get around--26 percent of each group. Older Hispanics were also comparable to older Nebraskans in the Eastern Region in their degree of bus patronage--27 percent for each group. However, older Nebraskans in general demonstrated less bus patronage. This is, in part, attributable to the absence of public transportation systems in many of Nebraska's smaller urban centers and rural areas. Utilization of

| TABLE 38  |                                  |                               |  |
|---|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| MANNER OF MOBILITY FOR OLDER GROUPS, AS A PERCENT <sup>*</sup>                    |                                  |                               |  |
| Manner of Mobility  | Older Omaha<br>Hispanics<br>N=78 | Older<br>Nebraskans<br>N=1720 | Older Nebraskans<br>in Eastern Region<br>N=215 |
| Walk  | 26                               | 26                            | 21   |
| Take a bus  | 27                               | 12                            | 27   |
| Take a senior citizen bus   | 3                                | 5                             | 4  |
| Take a taxi   | 1                                | 5                             | 11   |
| Drive own car   | 33                               | 70                            | 59   |
| Driven by family/friends  | 41                               | 59                            | 52   |
| <sup>*</sup> Respondents were allowed to select more than one manner of mobility. |                                  |                               |  |

senior citizen buses appeared low and comparable among all three groups.

Omaha's older Hispanics were distinct from older Nebraskans and those in the Eastern Region in their utilization of taxis and private automobiles. Far fewer older Hispanics utilized taxis for transportation than did other older Nebraskans, particularly as compared to older Nebraskans in the Eastern Region. Proportionately, fewer than half as many older Hispanics got around with their own automobiles as did older Nebraskans in general, and proportionately fewer older Hispanics were driven in friends'/families' cars as were other older Nebraskans.

The probable cause of those discrepancies in manner of transportation utilized is the difference in the financial situations of the groups. Older Hispanics, with lesser incomes, cannot afford the transportation modes which some other older Nebraskans depend upon. In addition, the rural locations of many older Nebraskans, with their attendant greater distances between points and relatively greater isolation and the relative absence of public transport, necessitate a dependence upon private transportation--usually the personal automobile. Who is less physically mobile (or isolated)--the rural older Nebraskan with personal private transport who must travel relatively greater distances, or the older Omaha Hispanic who must depend upon public transport to bridge the relatively lesser distances? This is a difficult question to answer.

Differentiating the modes of transportation used by older Hispanics according to the personal characteristics of the users yielded several common trends. Both men and women tended to walk less than to use other modes of transportation, but proportionately more men walked than did women. While older Hispanics of all older age groupings tended to walk less than use other modes of transportation, younger Hispanics (in their 60's) tended to walk more than did older Hispanics (in their 70's and 80's). A slight tendency was found for single Hispanics and relatively lower income Hispanics to walk more than others.

The association between personal characteristics and the tendency to drive one's own car to get around was even stronger than for walking. Proportionately more men than women tended to drive their own cars, and more younger Hispanics (in their 60's) tended to use their own cars than did the older Hispanics (in their 70's and 80's). A significantly greater proportion of marrieds tended to use personal automobiles in getting around, and those with relatively higher income tended to use their personal automobiles more.

Proportionately more women and older Hispanics (in their 70's and 80's) were driven by others.

#### Social Interactions

One consideration in assessing the level of well-being of the older population (or any age group) is their ability and tendency to interact with others. The assumption is that human beings need contact with other human beings in order to sustain their mental and physical well-being.

One way of assessing the degree of interaction being experienced by people is to seek information on their visiting habits, so the survey of older Hispanics solicited information on the frequency of visiting between the respondents and their friends and relatives. In addition, the direction of the visiting patterns was solicited.

Omaha's older Hispanics would appear to come into contact with friends and relatives more often in their own homes than in others' homes. (See Table 39.) Regular contact with relatives far exceeded their regular contact with friends, both in their own and in others' homes. Several respondents stated, "Most of my friends are dead." In fact, only for the category "relatives visit you" did more than a majority of Hispanics enjoy regular interaction with others.

| TABLE 39   |    |           |       |        |       |       |
|--|----|-----------|-------|--------|-------|-------|
| VISITATION PATTERNS OF OLDER HISPANICS, AS A PERCENT |    |           |       |        |       |       |
| Person Visiting and<br>Direction of Visit            | N  | Regularly | Often | Seldom | Never | Total |
| Relatives visit you                                  | 79 | 66        | 10    | 11     | 13    | 100   |
| You visit relatives                                  | 79 | 22        | 15    | 34     | 29    | 100   |
| Friends visit you                                    | 80 | 10        | 14    | 44     | 33    | 101   |
| You visit friends                                    | 80 | 1         | 10    | 39     | 50    | 100   |

The comparison of the visiting patterns of older Hispanics with the visiting patterns of older Nebraskans yielded several differences. (See Table 40.)<sup>1</sup> Visiting between older Hispanics and their relatives seemed to occur slightly more frequently (using the "regular" visiting category) than did visiting between older Nebraskans and their relatives. However, the greater proportion of older Hispanics who never visit with relatives, as compared to older Nebraskans, suggests a significantly greater absence of or estrangement from relatives among the older Hispanic group.

The difference between older Hispanics and older Nebraskans was far greater when viewing visitation patterns with friends. Older Hispanics were far less prone to visit with friends (77 percent seldom or never) than were older Nebraskans (16 percent seldom or never). Therefore, older Hispanics appeared to be significantly less interactive with and more isolated from their families than were older Nebraskans. These results may suggest a greater orientation toward family than toward friendship networks. Alternatively, the visitation patterns may demonstrate a greater need among sizeable minority of older Hispanics for human interaction,

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<sup>1</sup>The statewide survey of older Nebraskans did not differentiate the direction of visitations--to older Nebraskans' homes or to others' homes. Thus the comparisons between older Hispanics and older Nebraskans are less precise than desired. In order to make the comparisons, the data on visits of older Hispanics with friends and relatives in older Hispanic homes were used; those data were considered more indicative of total interaction than would be the data on visitation outside of older Hispanics' homes or an average of the two.



| TABLE 40   |      |         |       |        |       |       |
|--|------|---------|-------|--------|-------|-------|
| FREQUENCY OF VISITATION AMONG OLDER GROUPS, AS A PERCENT |      |         |       |        |       |       |
|  | N    | Regular | Often | Seldom | Never | Total |
| Visiting with relatives                                  |      |         |       |        |       |       |
| Older Omaha Hispanics                                    | 79   | 66      | 10    | 11     | 13    | 100   |
| Older Nebraskans   | 1220 | 59      | 31    | 9      | 2     | 101   |
| Older Nebraskans in Eastern Region                       | 215  | 61      | 30    | 6      | 4     | 101   |
| Visiting with friends                                    |      |         |       |        |       |       |
| Older Omaha Hispanics                                    | 80   | 10      | 14    | 44     | 33    | 101   |
| Older Nebraskans   | 1720 | 51      | 33    | 14     | 2     | 100   |
| Older Nebraskans in Eastern Region                       | 215  | 49      | 30    | 18     | 3     | 100   |

perhaps through human service programs such as Friendly Visitors, Telephone Reassurance, or others. That greater need may be attributable, in part, to the older age structure of Omaha's Hispanics with its attendant probability that a person's friends (if not relatives) may not have survived the years. Alternatively, the responses of older Hispanics may suggest a higher level of expectation as related to visitation patterns with friends and relatives; visitation may simply not occur at the desired rate, and that higher expectation may be culturally dependent.

#### Dining Patterns

In addition to the sustenance/nutrition function of food consumption, dining also may serve a social/interaction function, such as with whom a person eats meals and where the meals are eaten.

Omaha's older Hispanics dined predominantly with some other person (75 percent); a sizeable minority (25 percent) dined alone. (See Table 41.) Two-thirds (66 percent) of older Hispanics dined with relatives (spouses or other relatives), and one-quarter (24.9 percent) dined with persons other than their spouses. These results tend to parallel the information on social interaction, though relatively less contact with friends and relatives occurs through dining than through interaction in general.

| TABLE 41   |            |
|--|------------|
| DINING ARRANGEMENTS OF OLDER HISPANICS, AS A PERCENT<br>N=80 |            |
| Dining Partner   | Percent    |
| Spouse   | 50         |
| Other relative   | 16         |
| Friend   | 9          |
| Alone  | 25         |
| Total  | <u>100</u> |

A comparison of the usual dining arrangements of older Hispanics with dining habits of older Nebraskans yielded similarities and differences. (See Table 42.) The proportion of older people dining with spouses and with other relatives was comparable among the groups. The proportion of older Hispanics dining with friends was considerably greater than the proportion of older Nebraskans who dined with friends, and the proportion of Hispanics dining alone was also somewhat less than the proportion of older Nebraskans dining alone. Given the fact that fewer older Hispanics live alone in single-person households (in spite of the existence of more singles and fewer marrieds), a lesser proportion of older Hispanics would be expected to dine alone than would older Nebraskans.

| TABLE 42   |                                  |                               |  |
|--|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| DINING ARRANGEMENTS OF OLDER CITIZENS BY GROUP, AS A PERCENT |                                  |                               |  |
| Dining Partner   | Older Omaha<br>Hispanics<br>N=80 | Older<br>Nebraskans<br>N=1720 | Older Nebraskans<br>in Eastern Region<br>N=215 |
| Spouse   | 50                               | 52                            | 48   |
| Other relative   | 16                               | 13                            | 12   |
| Friend   | 9                                | 3                             | 4  |
| Alone  | 25                               | 31                            | 34   |
| Other  | -                                | 1                             | 2  |
| Total  | <u>100</u>                       | <u>100</u>                    | <u>100</u>                                     |

| TABLE 43  |                                  |                               |  |
|---|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| COMPARISON OF VISITING AND DINING PATTERNS AMONG GROUPS, AS A PERCENT |                                  |                               |  |
| Type of Interaction<br>and with Whom                                  | Older Omaha<br>Hispanics<br>N=80 | Older<br>Nebraskans<br>N=1720 | Older Nebraskans<br>in Eastern Region<br>N=215 |
| Visit relatives regularly   | 66                               | 59                            | 61   |
| Dine with relatives<br>(spouse and others)                            | 66                               | 65                            | 60   |
| Visit friends regularly   | 10                               | 51                            | 49   |
| Dine with friends   | 9                                | 3                             | 4  |

A comparison between older Hispanics and older Nebraskans in their dining and visitation patterns with relatives (see Table 43) suggests that both Hispanics and Nebraskans demonstrated a correspondence between frequency of visiting with relatives and usual dining arrangements with relatives. On the other hand, while older Hispanics exhibited a correspondence between frequency of visiting and dining patterns with friends, older Nebraskans demonstrated a striking difference between frequency of visiting and dining arrangements with friends. Visiting with friends appeared to be tied more closely to dining arrangements among older Hispanics than older Nebraskans. In part, that difference may be attributable to the differences in living arrangements between the two groups (fewer Hispanics living alone and more living with friends and non-spouse relatives). The difference may be influenced in part by the cultural orientation of Hispanics toward demonstrating hospitality through food-giving. A possibility also exists that older Nebraskans overstated their frequency of visitation with friends and/or under-estimated their dining tendencies with friends.

Respondents of this survey were also asked how often they ate meals away from home. (See Table 44.) The responses to the question demonstrated that a clear majority of older Hispanics tended to eat predominantly or exclusively at home, approximately 40 percent ate meals away from their own homes regularly/often, while about 60 percent seldom/never ate away from home.

| TABLE 44   |            |
|--|------------|
| FREQUENCY OF HISPANICS EATING AWAY FROM HOME, AS A PERCENT<br>N=77 |            |
| Eat Away From Home   | Percent    |
| Regularly  | 20         |
| Often  | 21         |
| Seldom   | 35         |
| Never  | 25         |
| Total  | <u>101</u> |

The comparison of the frequency with which older Hispanics ate away from home to older Nebraskans eating away from home is imprecise. (See Table 45). Older Hispanics responded to the eating away from home question by answering regularly, often, seldom, or never, while older Nebraskans responded according to how many times per week constituted regularly or often or seldom or never. Assuming that the equivalencies structured in Table 45 are valid, the frequencies with which older Hispanics and older Nebraskans ate away from home are comparable.

| TABLE 45   |  |   |  |
|--|--|---|--|
| COMPARISON OF FREQUENCIES OF OLDER CITIZENS EATING AWAY FROM HOME,<br>AS A PERCENT |  |   |  |
| <u>Frequency</u><br><u>For Hispanics (For Other Nebraskans)</u>                    | <u>Older</u><br><u>Hispanics</u><br>N=77 | <u>Older</u><br><u>Nebraskans</u><br>N=1720 | <u>Older Nebraskans</u><br><u>in Eastern Region</u><br>N=215 |
| Regularly (three or more times per week)   | 20                                       | 11  | 9  |
| Often (one or two times per week)  | 21 } 41                                  | 29 } 40                                     | 34 } 43  |
| Seldom (less than once per week)   | 35 } 60                                  | 60  | 56   |
| Never  | 25                                       |   |  |

Finally, within the dining category, respondents were asked whether they knew of a hot noon meal program in their communities and, if they knew of such a program, how often they participated. (See Table 46.) As

can be seen from Table 46, though a majority in each group was aware of the programs, a significantly greater proportion of older Hispanics knew about them than did older Nebraskans. Furthermore, though a majority in each group did not participate, a greater proportion of older Hispanics took part than did older Nebraskans.

Greater knowledge of and participation in hot noon meal programs by older Hispanics suggest that they are better served by such programs than are other older Nebraskans in general. However, considering the lower income distribution of older Hispanics, assessment of the adequacy of the hot meal program is more difficult. In short, while usage of the program is determined here, need for the program cannot be well documented, and the balance between patronage and need cannot be definitively determined.

| TABLE 46   |                                  |                               |  |
|--|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| COMPARISON OF KNOWLEDGE OF AND PARTICIPATION IN HOT NOON MEAL PROGRAMS<br>AMONG OLDER GROUPS, AS A PERCENT |                                  |                               |  |
|  | Older Omaha<br>Hispanics<br>N=80 | Older<br>Nebraskans<br>N=1720 | Older Nebraskans<br>in Eastern Region<br>N=215 |
| Knowledge of hot noon<br>meal program  | 85                               | 61                            | 70   |
| Participation in<br>meal program   |                                  |                               |  |
| Regularly  | 25                               | 7                             | 5  |
| Occasionally   | 6                                | 7                             | 8  |
| Rarely   | 16                               | 5                             | 5  |
| Never  | 53                               | 81                            | 81   |
| Total  | <u>100</u>                       | <u>100</u>                    | <u>99</u>                                      |

#### Participation in Activities

Omaha's older Hispanics were asked which kinds of activities they enjoyed both at and away from their homes and which activities they would enjoy if they were able. Although the frequency with which the activities were conducted was solicited from the respondents, the responses were too few to be meaningfully tallied. The questions about activity participation were purposely phrased in a positive manner so that responses would reflect activities which older Hispanics enjoy. The open-ended responses were

grouped by activity categories. The percentages sum to more than 100 percent because of multiple responses to the questions. These responses are the least comparable to the results of the statewide survey of older Nebraskans.

The tabulation of the responses to the activity questions in Table 47 demonstrates a relatively active and involved population, although a sizeable subgroup expressed various needs/desires for certain specific activities.

Older Hispanics enjoyed the following types of activities in their homes, in order of frequency cited: entertainment (radio, music, and TV), gardening, chores (housekeeping, cooking, and home repair), arts/crafts, reading, and, far less, socializing (visiting). The relatively large number of people who cited entertainment at home might suggest a preponderance of passive activities, particularly since television viewing comprised an overwhelming 87 percent of that category. By contrast, the home activity cited second most often was gardening, with 55 percent of the respondents naming it as an activity they enjoyed. When gardening (though seasonal) was coupled with other enjoyed chore activities, the number of respondents citing participation in work-oriented activities totaled to 96 percent, suggesting a very active, and willingly active, older population. The least frequently cited home activity was visiting. Comparing these results to the earlier responses of frequency of visitation with friends and relatives might suggest that visiting with relatives is not considered an activity or that it is not enjoyed, and/or these results might reflect the relatively low rate of visitation with friends.

TABLE 47  
ACTIVITIES OF OMAHA'S OLDER HISPANICS\*

| At Home       |    |    | Away from Home |    |    | Desired                 |    |    |
|---------------|----|----|----------------|----|----|-------------------------|----|----|
| Activity      | #  | %  | Activity       | #  | %  | Activity                | #  | %  |
| Entertainment | 56 | 70 | Entertainment  | 37 | 46 | Entertainment           | 52 | 65 |
| Socializing   | 4  | 5  | Socializing    | 24 | 30 | Socializing             | 16 | 20 |
| Chores        | 33 | 41 | Chores         | 18 | 23 | Chores                  | 8  | 10 |
| Reading       | 16 | 20 | Church         | 24 | 30 | Reading                 | 3  | 4  |
| Gardening     | 44 | 55 | Outdoors       | 16 | 20 | Gardening/out-<br>doors | 16 | 20 |
|               |    |    | Sports         | 16 | 20 | Sports                  | 23 | 29 |
| Arts/Crafts   | 24 | 30 |                |    |    | Education               | 3  | 4  |

\* Respondents were allowed to select more than one activity per category.

Older Hispanics enjoyed the following activities away from home, in order of frequency cited: entertainment (including movies, music/dancing, bingo, cantina, and particularly eating out), church and socializing (cited equally often), chores (shopping), and outdoor activities (such as picnics, park visits, walks, sightseeing) and sports (cited equally often). Again, the range and frequency suggest a relatively active population, though fewer activities away from home are mentioned (a total of 177 multiple responses) than those at home (a total of 135 multiple responses). Notable among the away activities is the 30 percent participation rate in church activities. If socializing and church activities are grouped together, then religious/secular interaction-type activities would total to 60 percent and would become the single most cited away activity. Likewise, if sports and outdoor activities are grouped together, they vie with entertainment for the most cited away activity.

By contrast, the compilation of activities older Hispanics would enjoy if they were able suggests a significant level of need among the respondents. Interestingly, the survey yielded fewer responses for desired activities than for activities already participated in. The largest category of desired activities by far was entertainment, including dancing, parties, and movies. Particularly notable among the desired entertainment activities were radio, movies, and TV in Spanish; better than half (51.9 percent) citing a desire for entertainment requested that it be in Spanish. Other desired categories include, in order of frequency cited: sports, socializing and outdoor activities (cited equally), chores, reading, and education. Difficulties with health and transportation were named as reasons for non-participation in sports, outdoor activities, (including picnics and sightseeing), and chores. Reading was difficult or impossible for several due to poor eyesight. Sixty-three percent of those expressing a desire for socializing cited the need for "fellowship." Of the three persons desiring education, one wished to learn English, the second felt the need to learn carpentry as a personal skill, and the third simply desired to be more educated for self-improvement. Thus the needs of Omaha's older Hispanics for activity were many and varied but were cited by respondents as stemming primarily from matters of health and transportation.

The orientation of older Hispanics toward church centered activities was determined from a separate question, displayed in Table 48. Assuming

that older Hispanics who did not respond to the question on church activity participation were less likely to be participants, the proportion of Hispanics who did not participate in their churches would range from a minimum of 25 percent ( $14 \div 56$ ) to a maximum of 47.5 percent (24 no responses plus 14 no activity divided by a total of 80 persons). Thus the orientation of older Hispanics was not predominantly toward church activities, and that orientation was only minimal beyond the attendance at services.

TABLE 48  
RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES OF OMAHA'S OLDER HISPANICS

| Type of Participation | Number | Percent |
|-----------------------|--------|---------|
| Services (Mass)       | 30     | 54      |
| Group membership      | 2      | 4       |
| Fund raising          | 5      | 9       |
| Socializing           | 5      | 9       |
| None                  | 14     | 25      |
| Total                 | 56     | 101     |

### Media Patronage

In addition to the questions on activities and the questions on literacy reported upon earlier, Omaha's older Hispanics were asked whether they regularly read newspapers and magazines, listened to the radio, and/or watched television. The older Hispanics were also asked whether the media they patronized were in Spanish. (See Table 49.)

Magazines appeared to be the least patronized by all older Hispanics, followed by newspapers, radio, and television (in order of increasing usage). However, nearly the reverse was true of the patronage of media printed or broadcast in Spanish. Television broadcast in Spanish was the least patronized followed by radio, magazines, and newspapers (in order of increasing usage). An acute problem is therefore presented: the modes of communication utilized most by older Hispanics are the media least likely to supply Spanish programming. In the case of radio and television



| TABLE 49  |            |           |         |            |
|---|------------|-----------|---------|------------|
| PATRONAGE OF MEDIA BY OLDER HISPANICS, AS A PERCENT |            |           |         |            |
| N=80  |            |           |         |            |
|   | Newspapers | Magazines | Radio   | Television |
| All older Hispanic respondents                      |            |           |         |            |
| Use medium, including Spanish                       | 25 } 62    | 22 } 47   | 20 } 69 | 5 } 95     |
| Use medium, not in Spanish                          | 37         | 25        | 49      | 90         |
| Don't use medium                                    | 29 } 38    | 44 } 53   | 31      | 5          |
| Don't read  | 9          | 9         | -       | -          |
| Total   | 100        | 100       | 100     | 100        |
| Older Hispanic respondents<br>who use that medium   |            |           |         |            |
| English and Spanish                                 | 41         | 46        | 29      | 5          |
| English only  | 59         | 54        | 71      | 95         |
| Total   | 100        | 100       | 100     | 100        |

Spanish programming is nearly absent, while in the case of newspapers and magazines the availability and/or knowledge of sources of Spanish language printing may be lacking. At any rate, with 68 percent of older Hispanics bilingual and another 19 percent able to read only Spanish, an obvious need exists for greater availability of printed and broadcast matter in Spanish.

Printed matter and programming patronized by Omaha's older Hispanics are listed below (not in order of patronage). Some of those printed materials are mailed to the respondents from Mexico.

Newspapers:

*Alarma*  
*La Opinion*  
*Policia*  
*Mundo del Mexico*  
*El Sol*  
*Newsletter (Chicano Awareness Center)*  
*Newsletter (Mexican-American Commission)*

Magazines:

*Rotiria*  
*Papeto Socorro*  
*Detectives*  
*Life (Spanish Version)*  
*Readers Digest (Spanish Version)*  
*Selecciones*

Radio:

Concha Montelongo (KVNO--Omaha)  
Programa Mexicana  
Comunidad en acion  
Algunos de Mexico y California

Television:

Specials on both commercial and  
public television

Telephone

Telephone communications were almost universally enjoyed by Omaha's older Hispanics; 78 of the 80 respondents or 97.5 percent had telephones in their own homes. These percentages are significant in themselves, since the availability of individual home telephones yields an ability to reach others rapidly, particularly in emergency situations, assuming a knowledge of whom or which agency to call.



## SECTION VII

### SERVICE UTILIZATION BY OMAHA'S OLDER HISPANICS

The principal focus of this report is to assess the availability and utilization of established services for Omaha's older Hispanic population. Though important, the concern here is not with the absolute supply of services (for example, the number of hospitals in the City of Omaha), nor is it with the spatial distribution of services (for example, the location of hospitals within Omaha). Rather, this analysis focuses upon the relative numbers and frequencies of Omaha's older Hispanics who are aware of and who utilize or participate in established services.

#### Health Services

Among the most important services utilized by older citizens and the general population are medical/health services. Medical services include both personnel (such as doctors and dentists) and facilities (such as hospitals and clinics). Medical services may also be either privately or publicly financed and/or operated.

The basic question related to the utilization of medical services is whether the potential user has had a need for such services. (See Table 50.) Therefore, the older Hispanic respondents were asked whether and how often they had been ill during the previous twelve-month period. Forty percent of respondents stated that they had not been ill during the past year, while 60 percent had been ill. Nine percent of older Hispanics could be considered chronically ill (five or more times during the year).

Among the 48 respondents who had been ill, approximately half of those (48 percent) were ill only once, while 15 percent had been chronically ill (five or more times).

A comparison of frequency of illness to frequency with which medical services were sought demonstrated a fairly strong association between the incidence of illness and the pursuit of treatment. However, older Hispanics have a tendency to seek treatment less frequently than their rates of

TABLE 50

## UTILIZATION OF MEDICAL SERVICES BY OLDER HISPANICS

|                           | None |     | Once |    | Two to<br>Four Times |    | Five or<br>More Times |    |
|---------------------------|------|-----|------|----|----------------------|----|-----------------------|----|
|                           | #    | %   | #    | %  | #                    | %  | #                     | %  |
| Times ill                 | 32   | 40  | 23   | 29 | 18                   | 22 | 7                     | 9  |
| Times sought medical aid  | 23   | 29  | 17   | 21 | 16                   | 20 | 24                    | 30 |
| Times used doctor         | 24   | 30  | 22   | 28 | 13                   | 16 | 21                    | 26 |
| Times used medical clinic | 70   | 88  | 5    | 6  | 3                    | 4  | 2                     | 2  |
| Times used medical school | 80   | 100 | -    | -  | -                    | -  | -                     | -  |
| Times used hospital       | 54   | 68  | 19   | 24 | 6                    | 7  | 1                     | 1  |
| Times used curandero      | 77   | 96  | 2    | 3  | 1                    | 1  | -                     | -  |

|   | No |    | Yes |    |
|---|----|----|-----|----|
|   | #  | %  | #   | %  |
| Used Dentist in last year               | 56 | 70 | 24  | 30 |
| Had checkup in last year                | 22 | 28 | 58  | 73 |
| Had problems getting<br>health services | 71 | 96 | 3   | 4  |

illness would suggest. This is the case for all frequency categories except the category of most frequent treatment (five or more times per year). In fact, the greatest disparity between frequency of illness and frequency of treatment occurred for the category of most frequent illness/treatment, and the proportion being treated (30 percent) was more than three times the proportion claiming illness (9 percent). The disparity is most likely attributable to certain chronic disorders which would prompt treatment but might not incapacitate the patient, thus not causing the person to consider himself ill. Examples might include allergies or skin disorders and their treatments. Additionally, certain persons may be receiving frequent treatments for disorders which were contracted more

than 12 months earlier.

The proportion of respondents seeking medical assistance may be compared to the proportion undergoing annual health checkups. The comparison demonstrated that the proportion seeking medical aid (71 percent) was comparable to the proportion receiving checkups (73 percent). Since the proportion of respondents receiving checkups was far greater than the proportion using doctors/hospitals (but comparable to those using medical services), the respondents apparently were able to distinguish between the categories of health questions in the survey and did not include checkups in their responses related to the use of specific personnel/facilities.

The proportion of older Hispanics utilizing medical services and frequency of usage varied by type of medical service. The greatest proportion of older Hispanics (70 percent) sought out private doctors to meet their health needs. Doctors were also the most frequently utilized health service. Hospitals were the second most utilized health service, though by less than a majority (32 percent) of older Hispanics, and were used far less frequently than were doctors. Only a small minority (12 percent) of older Hispanics patronized medical clinic facilities, and they did so only infrequently. In spite of the presence of two medical schools (University of Nebraska and Creighton), Omaha's older Hispanics did not use medical school facilities at all, although some could have included their patronage to medical school outpatient clinics under the clinic category when questioned.

A minority (30 percent) of older Hispanics made visits to their dentists during the past year. However, while 70 percent did not patronize dentists, whether this is due to a lack of problems or an avoidance of dental treatment cannot be determined.

An additional category of health personnel included among the practitioners from which older Hispanics may have sought treatment was the curandero. The curandero may be defined as a folk practitioner or folk healer (Campa, 1979, pp. 201-203), and was included as an option because of his traditional availability to and patronage by Mexican-Americans.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>The term curandero is only one of many differentiating labels ascribed to practitioners of Mexican "folk medicine"; others include the partera (midwife), the sanador (healer), the medico (combining herbal and religious treatment), and the arbolario (originally, an herb dispenser) (Campa, 1979, pp. 201-203). Additionally, the use of folk healers is not unique to the Hispanic ethno-cultural group; many other ethnic groups have had their traditional folk cures, and some within those groups continue to patronize the folk remedies.

Very few older Hispanics (4 percent) stated that they sought the services of a curandero, and only one person stated that he sought curandero services more than once during the year, although one man stated that he traveled to Mexico once each year specifically to consult with his curandero.

The only one of the demographic characteristics of older Hispanics which demonstrated a statistical association with frequency of medical service usage was income. Unfortunately, this suggests that treatment is dependent upon income rather than need and that those persons with lesser incomes will utilize medical services less, whether or not those services are needed.

The comparison of medical services utilized by older Hispanics with usage by older Nebraskans yielded several differences. (See Table 51.) A somewhat smaller proportion of older Hispanics used doctor and dental

| TABLE 51   |                           |                               |   |
|--|---------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| COMPARISON OF HEALTH SERVICES USAGE AND PROBLEMS BETWEEN<br>OLDER GROUPS, AS A PERCENT |                           |                               |   |
|  | Older<br>Hispanics<br>N=* | Older<br>Nebraskans<br>N=1720 | Older<br>Nebraskans in<br>Eastern Region<br>N=215 |
| Times doctor used  |                           |                               |   |
| none   | 29                        | 18                            | 21  |
| once   | 21                        | 22                            | 19  |
| twice or more  | 50                        | 60                            | 60  |
| Received health checkup  | 73                        | 63                            | 63  |
| Used hospital facility   | 32                        | 26                            | 28  |
| Visited a dentist  | 30                        | 37                            | 39  |
| Encountered problem<br>getting health services   | 4                         | 5                             | 7   |
| Problems of:   |                           |                               |   |
| availability   | 0                         | 1                             | 1   |
| cost   | 4                         | 2                             | 5   |
| transportation   | 6                         | 1                             | 1   |
| Spanish speaking personnel   | 6                         | -                             | -   |
| * N varies from 76 to 80.  |                           |                               |   |

services during the course of a year than older Nebraskans. However, a somewhat greater proportion of older Hispanics received medical checkups than older Nebraskans, and a slightly greater proportion of Hispanics utilized hospital services. These differences, though not great, may be due to some combination of differences in age, levels of health, attitudes toward health services, or the number and availability of certain services. However, the balance between those influences on usage cannot be determined here.

#### Problems Acquiring Health Services

The willingness of potential patients to utilize health services and the frequency with which they do so is influenced by the problems encountered in attempting to acquire the services. If the problems are perceived to be significant enough, they will serve as barriers to health delivery for at least a portion of the potential users.

A very small proportion of older Hispanics claimed to have had problems in acquiring health services. A comparably small proportion of older Nebraskans cited problems associated with health service acquisition. Among those problems cited, transportation (availability) and the absence of Spanish-speaking personnel appeared to be the greatest problems for older Hispanics. For older Nebraskans in the Eastern Region (5 percent of total respondents) cost was the greatest problem; it was also a significant problem for older Hispanics (4 percent of respondents). Thus, though the numbers and proportions are small, a minority of older citizens experience problems in acquiring adequate health services.

#### Manner of Payment for Health Services

Omaha's older Hispanics were not uniform in the manner in which they paid for medical services. The number and percentage of users by manner of payment are listed in Table 52, in order of frequency of use. Medicare was used most frequently and by a majority of older Hispanics. Cash and health insurance were also used by a sizeable number of older Hispanics, though not a majority. An analysis of manner of payment by characteristics of payer suggests Medicare was not only the most used manner of payment for medical services, it was also rather evenly used across the population by sex, age, and income.



| TABLE 52  |        |         |
|---|--------|---------|
| MANNER OF PAYMENT FOR MEDICAL SERVICES BY OLDER HISPANICS             |        |         |
| N=78*   |        |         |
| Manner of Payment   | Number | Percent |
| Medicare  | 41     | 53      |
| Cash  | 35     | 46      |
| Health insurance  | 27     | 35      |
| Medicaid  | 6      | 8       |
| Veterans Administration   | 1      | 1       |
| Family/friends  | 1      | 1       |
| PCS card  | 1      | 1       |
| Not yet paid  | 2      | 3       |
| * Respondents were allowed to select more than one manner of payment. |        |         |

The use of cash by older Hispanics in paying for medical services was less evenly distributed across the population. Slightly more women tended to use cash for payment than did men. Significantly fewer in the oldest age category (80's) used cash than did the younger respondents (60's and 70's), and a majority of respondents whose incomes fell within the lower range (less than \$300/month) and within the highest range (greater than \$801 per month) used cash for medical payments.

Payment for medical services through the use of health insurance was less evenly distributed across the population of older Hispanics. Users of health insurance were twice as likely to be male as female, with 63 percent of users being male and 37 percent being female. The usage of health insurance decreased with age of older Hispanics, with a particularly small proportion of older Hispanics in their 80's using this manner of payment. The usage of health insurance to pay medical expenses was greater among older Hispanics with relatively greater incomes, particularly for those with incomes above \$400 per month.

A sizeable proportion (57 percent) of older Hispanics used more than one manner of payment for medical services. (See Table 53.) of the total number of Hispanic respondents, nearly one-fourth used cash and nearly one-fourth used health insurance benefits to supplement their Medicare coverage.

| TABLE 53   |                   |      |           |
|--|-------------------|------|-----------|
| COMBINATIONS OF PAYMENT FOR MEDICAL SERVICES AS PERCENTAGE OF<br>TOTAL OLDER HISPANICS<br>N=78 |                   |      |           |
| Manner of Payment  | Manner of Payment |      |           |
|  | Medicare          | Cash | Insurance |
| Medicare   | --                | 23   | 19        |
| Cash   | 23                | --   | 5         |
| Insurance  | 19                | 5    | --        |

### Legal Services

Omaha's older Hispanics were asked whether they had encountered legal problems during the previous 12 months. Only six of the 78 respondents (8 percent) had encountered legal problems, and all of these had sought legal advice or assistance. As displayed in Table 54, fewer older Hispanics had experienced legal problems than had the population of older Nebraskans or than had older Nebraskans in the Eastern Region.

| TABLE 54   |                            |                               |   |
|--|----------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| PERCENT OF OLDER CITIZENS EXPERIENCING LEGAL PROBLEMS BY GROUP |                            |                               |   |
| Legal Problems   | Older<br>Hispanics<br>N=80 | Older<br>Nebraskans<br>N=1720 | Older<br>Nebraskans in<br>Eastern Region<br>N=215 |
| Yes  | 8                          | 26                            | 20  |
| No   | 92                         | 74                            | 80  |

Of those six older Hispanics experiencing problems, four consulted lawyers, and two sought the advice of family or friends. Older Hispanics without legal problems were also asked whom they would consult in the event of legal problems. The combined preferences of those with and without legal problems appears in Table 55. Better than a majority (59 percent) would or did seek counsel with a lawyer, approximately one-third would or did seek the advice of family friends, and the remaining minority would or did consult with other professionals such as doctors and priests.

| TABLE 55   |           |            |
|--|-----------|------------|
| OLDER HISPANICS' PREFERENCES FOR LEGAL COUNSEL IF/WHEN EXPERIENCING LEGAL PROBLEMS |           |            |
| Person Consulted   | Number    | Percent    |
| Lawyer   | 46        | 59         |
| Family/friends   | 27        | 35         |
| Other professionals  | 5         | 6          |
| Total  | <u>78</u> | <u>100</u> |

#### Enfranchisement (Register/Vote)

As an indicator of their political identity/involvement, Omaha's older Hispanics were asked whether they were registered to vote and whether they voted in the last election. As seen from Table 56, a bare majority (52 percent) claimed to be registered to vote; of those registered, most (80 percent) said they voted, but of all older Hispanics--registered or not--only 42 percent voted in the last election.

TABLE 56

## POLITICAL REGISTRATION AND VOTING AMONG OMAHA'S OLDER HISPANICS

|                            | Number | Percent |
|----------------------------|--------|---------|
| Registered and voted       | 33     | 42      |
| Registered but didn't vote | 8      | 10      |
| Not registered             | 37     | 47      |
| Total                      | 78     | 99      |

Public Services

A number of public programs exist specifically to assist older citizens. Those programs are designed to assist with finances, health and nutrition, security, and/or transportation and communications. The question at hand is whether the programs designed to meet the needs of older citizens are reaching Omaha's older Hispanics. The first step in finding the answer to that question is to determine whether older Hispanics are aware of those programs, and, if they are aware of programs, do they use the program's services?

Table 57 summarizes the awareness of and participation in selected public programs by Omaha's older Hispanics. At the most general level, only one of those public programs could claim a majority of older Hispanics as participants. That program, Social Security, serviced 78 percent of older Hispanics surveyed; however, the remaining 22 percent of older Hispanics did not participate in the Social Security program, and 8 percent of older Hispanics were not even aware of the program.

A majority of Omaha's older Hispanics were aware of but did not participate in another six of the selected public programs. However, the remaining eight public programs were unknown to a majority of Omaha's older Hispanics. Thus, 14 of the 15 selected public programs were utilized by a small minority of older Hispanics (no more than 16 percent), and eight of the 15 programs, or 53 percent, were unknown to the majority of older Hispanics.

TABLE 57  
AWARENESS OF PROGRAMS FOR THE ELDERLY BY OLDER OMAHA HISPANICS

| Type and Name of Program           | Number of Respondents | Categories of Awareness                             |   |  | Number and Percent of Program Participants Encountering Spanish-Speaking Personnel |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|---|---|--|--|
|                                    |                       | I<br>Heard of and Participated in Program (Percent) | II<br>Heard of but did Not Participate in Program (Percent) | III<br>Did Not Hear of Program (Percent) |  |
| <b>Financial</b>                   |                       |   |   |  |  |
| Social Security                    | 76                    | 78*   | 14  | 8  | 10 (of 60) - 17%   |
| Supplemental Security Income (SSI) | 74                    | 5   | 30  | 65*                                      | 0 (of 4) - 0%  |
| Senior Citizen Discount            | 75                    | 11  | 60*   | 29                                       | 3 (of 8) - 38%   |
| Welfare                            | 74                    | 8   | 64*   | 28                                       | 0 (of 6) - 0%  |
| <b>Health/Nutrition</b>            |                       |   |   |  |  |
| Food Stamps                        | 75                    | 12  | 75*   | 13                                       | 3 (of 9) - 33%   |
| Meals on Wheels                    | 76                    | 12  | 60*   | 28                                       | 2 (of 9) - 22%   |
| Home Health Care                   | 74                    | 3   | 30  | 67*                                      | 0 (of 2) - 0%  |
| <b>Residential</b>                 |                       |   |   |  |  |
| Handyman Repair Service            | 74                    | 9   | 38  | 53*                                      | 0 (of 8) - 0%  |
| Homemaker/Chores                   | 76                    | 0   | 41  | 59*                                      | - -  |
| Winterize and Insulate             | 76                    | 3   | 47  | 50*                                      | 0 (of 8) - 0%  |
| <b>Interaction</b>                 |                       |   |   |  |  |
| Senior Citizen Center              | 77                    | 16  | 58*   | 26                                       | 8 (of 12) - 67%  |
| Friendly Visitors                  | 68                    | 3   | 26  | 71*                                      | 2 (of 2) - 100%  |
| Telephone Reassurance              | 75                    | 0   | 12  | 88*                                      | - -  |
| Retired Senior Volunteers (RSVP)   | 73                    | 4   | 36  | 60*                                      | 1 (of 3) - 33%   |
| Handibus Transportation            | 75                    | 11  | 53*   | 36                                       | 2 (of 8) - 25%   |

\*Category of awareness for each program with which a majority of Omaha's older Hispanics identified themselves.

The characteristics of users of public programs were examined for those few (five) programs which attracted relatively greater proportions of older Hispanic users. (For this analysis, programs were examined which had a minimum of 11 percent of respondents participating.)

The Social Security program was the only program examined with a substantial proportion of older Hispanic participants, 78 percent of respondents. A closer examination of those users revealed that the proportions of users were rather evenly distributed by demographic characteristics (such as age, sex, and education level) and, thus, there was no definable subgroup among older Hispanics who participated in the Social Security program more than others.

The Senior Citizen Center program had a far lesser proportion of older Hispanics participating, 16 percent. Nevertheless, several regularities in user characteristics could be noted. Males and females participated about equally in the program, the younger (in their 60's) among older Hispanics tended to participate more, marrieds participated in the program less, and divorced/widowed/separated participated more. Thus, Senior Citizen Center participants tended to be younger and not living with a spouse. This might mean that relatively younger, unattached Hispanics used the program to meet and interact with others.

Twelve percent of older Hispanics participated in the Meals on Wheels program. Proportionately more women, fewer marrieds, and less-educated Hispanics participated in the program. In addition, greater participation came from those of longer residence at their current addresses.

The Food Stamp Program was used by 12 percent of older Hispanics. Proportionately more renters, younger, and more marrieds among older Hispanics used this program.

The Senior Citizen Discount program had 11 percent of older Hispanics using its services. A greater proportion of participants were marrieds, younger (in their 60's), and were relatively more educated.

More than participation rates must be determined, however, in order to assess the adequacy of public programs in reaching their intended clients. Two of the additional considerations are whether the potential program users qualify for the programs, and whether the potential users wish to participate in the programs.

The financial characteristics of Omaha's older Hispanics (discussed above) suggest that considerably greater numbers of older Hispanics are

qualified to participate in certain programs than are currently participating. With 90 percent of Omaha's older Hispanic households falling within the low income status (according to HUD guidelines), the proportions of households eligible for financially defined programs are greater than those currently participating.

As an example, with 13 percent of older Hispanics owning their own houses and 90 percent at or below low income levels, those qualified to receive assistance through residential programs should logically exceed the current number of users. Likewise, considering the sizeable minority who eat alone (25 percent) and the relatively lesser participation in the Meals on Wheels program (12 percent), some additional demand for that service should be found among older Hispanics. In similar manner, given the considerable dependence upon travel by foot and by bus among older Hispanics and the prominence of transportation problems cited by the few who had difficulty receiving health care, both the Handibus and Home Health Care programs might be expected to have a greater number of participants than is currently the case. There are thus, strong indications that the current demand for public programs among Omaha's older Hispanics is not being met by the supply of public programs.

Whether actual demand for public programs among older Hispanics exceeds the supply is not so clear, particularly in non-financial programs. In other words, while older Hispanics may be eligible, they may not desire to participate in some public programs. As an example, although 85 percent of older Hispanics know of a hot noon meal program, only 31 percent participated regularly or occasionally. Whether that knowledge without participation is due to disinterest, lack of transportation, or some other reason(s) is difficult to establish. Likewise, while the earlier analysis of social interaction suggested a need for additional interaction (particularly with non-relatives) for some, not really clear is whether older Hispanics desire that greater interaction with non-relatives through public programs. Therefore, whether the older Hispanics would utilize additional interaction services if given the opportunity is not clear either.

An alternative way of examining the relative desirability of a public program might be to compare rates of participation in that program with rates of knowledge about the program between the age subgroups. If the

proportion of older Hispanics with knowledge about a program increases with age (60's to 70's to 80's) but participation decreases with age, then participation in that program either becomes less desirable among older Hispanics with increasing age or becomes less accessible for older Hispanics with age. In such a case the public agency must either demonstrate the desirability of the program to potential clients or facilitate their usage of the program. The only one of the 15 selected programs which fits that pattern is the Senior Citizen Centers program.

Alternatively, if the proportion of older Hispanics participating in a program increases with age but the proportion knowledgeable about the program decreases with age, then the public program would seem to be failing to reach Hispanics who would use the program. The two programs which fit this case are the Handibus Transportation program and the Handyman Repair Service program. Other programs do not demonstrate a regular change in participation and knowledgeability with age.

In short, the needs of Omaha's older Hispanics can be documented, and their lack of participation in and knowledge of programs can be shown. Less clear, however, is whether established public programs are serving an adequate proportion of Hispanics in need and, more importantly, whether older Hispanics desire that public assistance. If the assumption is made that Hispanics desire and would participate in public programs addressing their needs, then the indication is strong that established public programs for the elderly need to reach a greater proportion of older Hispanics than is currently being achieved.

#### Public Services - Comparative Context

The extent of the usage of public programs by Omaha's older Hispanics can be further analyzed by comparing their usage to the usage rates of other older Nebraskans. (See Table 58.) Given the proportionately greater number of older Hispanics receiving relatively lower incomes, Omaha's older Hispanics should be expected to utilize public programs (particularly those involving financial aid) to a greater extent than would older Nebraskans in general. (Some of the difference in participation between groups may be influenced by the existence of the program in one location, such as Omaha, but not in all locations across the state.)



| TABLE 58<br>A COMPARISON OF AWARENESS AND PARTICIPATION RATES BETWEEN OLDER OMAHA HISPANICS AND OLDER NEBRASKANS |  |   |                                   |  |                                   |  |   |                                   |  |                                   |
|--|--|---|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--|---|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| Type and Name of Program   | Awareness  |   |                                   |  |                                   | Participation                                    |   |                                   |  |                                   |
|  | Percent of<br>Omaha's<br>Older<br>Hispanics<br>* | Percent of<br>Older<br>Nebraskans<br>(n=1720) | Compared<br>to Omaha<br>Hispanics | Percent of<br>Older<br>Nebraskans<br>in Eastern<br>Region<br>(n=215) | Compared<br>to Omaha<br>Hispanics | Percent of<br>Omaha's<br>Older<br>Hispanics<br>* | Percent of<br>Older<br>Nebraskans<br>(n=1720) | Compared<br>to Omaha<br>Hispanics | Percent of<br>Older<br>Nebraskans<br>in Eastern<br>Region<br>(n=215) | Compared<br>to Omaha<br>Hispanics |
| Financial  |  |   |                                   |  |                                   |  |   |                                   |  |                                   |
| Social Security  | 92   | 97  | more                              | 95   | more                              | 78   | 81  | more                              | 77   | less                              |
| Supplemental Security Income (SSI)   | 35   | 48  | more                              | 67   | more                              | 5  | 7   | more                              | 9  | more                              |
| Senior Citizen Discount  | 71   | 67  | less                              | 85   | more                              | 11   | 24  | more                              | 37   | more                              |
| Welfare  | 72   | 83  | more                              | 86   | more                              | 8  | 5   | less                              | 7  | less                              |
| Health/Nutrition   |  |   |                                   |  |                                   |  |   |                                   |  |                                   |
| Food Stamps  | 87   | -   | -                                 | -  | -                                 | 12   | 4   | less                              | 6  | less                              |
| Meals On Wheels  | 72   | 91  | more                              | 92   | more                              | 12   | 8   | less                              | 6  | less                              |
| Home Health Care   | 33   | 46  | more                              | 53   | more                              | 3  | 2   | less                              | 1  | less                              |
| Residential  |  |   |                                   |  |                                   |  |   |                                   |  |                                   |
| Handyman Repair Service  | 47   | 52  | more                              | 70   | more                              | 9  | 5   | less                              | 6  | less                              |
| Homemaker/Chores   | 41   | 36  | less                              | 47   | more                              | 0  | 2   | more                              | 3  | more                              |
| Winterize and Insulate   | 50   | 53  | more                              | 65   | more                              | 3  | 3   | same                              | 3  | same                              |
| Interaction  |  |   |                                   |  |                                   |  |   |                                   |  |                                   |
| Senior Citizen Center  | 74   | 88  | more                              | 85   | more                              | 16   | 18  | more                              | 16   | same                              |
| Friendly Visitors  | 29   | 21  | less                              | 33   | more                              | 3  | 2   | less                              | 3  | same                              |
| Telephone Reassurance  | 12   | 22  | more                              | 33   | more                              | 0  | 2   | more                              | 4  | more                              |
| Retired Senior Volunteers (RSVP)   | 40   | 40  | same                              | 59   | more                              | 4  | 3   | less                              | 2  | less                              |
| Handibus Transportation  | 64   | 72  | more                              | 82   | more                              | 11   | 8   | less                              | 7  | less                              |
| * The size of N varies among programs, from 68 to 77; see Table 60.  |  |   |                                   |  |                                   |  |   |                                   |  |                                   |

Older Nebraskans participated to a greater extent than did Omaha's older Hispanics in six of the 15 selected public programs examined. The six programs with greater participation from older Nebraskans included: Social Security, Supplemental Security Income, Senior Citizen Discounts, Homemaker/Chores, Senior Citizen Centers, and Telephone Reassurance. Only the Senior Citizen Discount program had a substantially greater proportion of older Nebraskans (more than twice as many) participating in the program as compared to older Hispanics. However, the greater participation of older Nebraskans, as compared to older Hispanics, in three financial and one residential programs were the opposite of what would be expected, based upon the lesser financial status of the older Hispanic group. Thus, Omaha's older Hispanics appeared to be participating disproportionately less than were older Nebraskans in several of the public service programs examined.

Older Nebraskans participated to a lesser extent than did Omaha's older Hispanics in eight of the examined programs. The eight programs tended to be of the health/nutrition (Food Stamps, Meals on Wheels, and Home Health Care) and interaction (Friendly Visitors, Retired Senior Volunteers, and Handibus) types. Determination of what the expected balance of usage for those programs should be between the groups is more difficult. However, if financial need can be accepted as an indicator of the need for nutrition program assistance (Food Stamps and Meals on Wheels), and if transportation need is acceptable as an indicator of the need for interaction assistance (Friendly Visitors and Handibus), then older Hispanics should participate in those programs to a greater extent than do older Nebraskans. How much more older Hispanics should participate in the programs cannot be determined from the data.

Older Hispanics, therefore, participated proportionately more in eight of the programs and proportionately less in six of the programs examined. The differences in the proportion of older citizens of each group participating in public programs were not great, except for the Senior Citizen Discount program with significantly less Hispanic participation. In view of the relatively greater financial need among older Hispanics, these results suggest a need for public programs to reach a greater number of older Hispanics.

The need for public service programs to reach a greater proportion of older Hispanics is further substantiated by the comparison of program awareness among older Hispanics and older Nebraskans. Ten of the 15

public programs were familiar to a greater proportion of older Nebraskans than they were to older Hispanics. Furthermore, 14 of the programs were better known among older Nebraskans in the urbanized Eastern Region than they were among the older Hispanics, who resided in that same region. (The differences in awareness of some programs were particularly great between older Hispanics and older Nebraskans in the Eastern Region.) If a greater awareness of public programs is likely to generate greater program participation, then program usage by older Hispanics should increase with an increased awareness of public programs. The anticipation of increased participation with increased awareness is particularly true for older Hispanics since the existence of unmet needs can be documented.

## SECTION VIII

### ATTITUDES OF OMAHA'S OLDER HISPANICS

#### Severity of Problems

Each of the older Hispanics surveyed for this study was read a list of problem areas and asked to evaluate their seriousness as being very serious, somewhat serious, or not serious. (See Appendix II for the questionnaire.) Respondents first evaluated the seriousness of each of the problem areas for the Hispanic community; then they evaluated the seriousness for themselves. (See Table 59.) Problem seriousness for the community should be influenced by respondents' evaluations of problem seriousness for themselves.

Each of the problem areas was viewed as more serious for the Hispanic community in general than for the older Hispanics themselves.

TABLE 59  
OLDER OMAHA HISPANICS' VIEWS OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF PROBLEM AREAS

| Problem Area     | For the Community     |                                    |   |                                     |                                    | For the Respondent    |                                    |   |                                     |                                    |
|------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
|                  | Number of Respondents | I                                  | II                                      | III                                 | II and III                         | Number of Respondents | I                                  | II                                      | III                                 | II and III                         |
|                  |                       | Not Serious (Percent) <sup>†</sup> | Somewhat Serious (Percent) <sup>†</sup> | Very Serious (Percent) <sup>†</sup> | Somewhat or Very Serious (Percent) |                       | Not Serious (Percent) <sup>†</sup> | Somewhat Serious (Percent) <sup>†</sup> | Very Serious (Percent) <sup>†</sup> | Somewhat or Very Serious (Percent) |
| Language         | 79                    | 33                                 | 30                                      | 37                                  | 67*                                | 75                    | 37                                 | 41                                      | 21                                  | 63*                                |
| Elderly Services | 79                    | 40                                 | 29                                      | 32                                  | 60*                                | 70                    | 43                                 | 37                                      | 21                                  | 57*                                |
| Alcohol          | 77                    | 45                                 | 29                                      | 26                                  | 55*                                | 56                    | <u>74</u>                          | 18                                      | 8                                   | 26                                 |
| Education        | 77                    | 39                                 | 30                                      | 31                                  | 61*                                | 61                    | <u>49</u>                          | 26                                      | 25                                  | 51*                                |
| Youth Activities | 72                    | <u>59</u>                          | 24                                      | 17                                  | 41                                 | 40                    | <u>73</u>                          | 15                                      | 12                                  | 27                                 |
| Culture Loss     | 80                    | <u>26</u>                          | 33                                      | 41                                  | 74*                                | 70                    | <u>49</u>                          | 19                                      | 32                                  | 51*                                |
| Housing          | 77                    | <u>60</u>                          | 24                                      | 16                                  | 40                                 | 63                    | <u>88</u>                          | 13                                      | 0                                   | 12                                 |
| Recreation       | 77                    | <u>57</u>                          | 26                                      | 18                                  | 43                                 | 62                    | <u>76</u>                          | 24                                      | 0                                   | 24                                 |
| Crime            | 78                    | <u>36</u>                          | 28                                      | 36                                  | 64*                                | 72                    | <u>64</u>                          | 23                                      | 13                                  | 36                                 |
| Drugs            | 74                    | 40                                 | 33                                      | 27                                  | 60*                                | 58                    | <u>75</u>                          | 18                                      | 8                                   | 25                                 |
| Transportation   | 79                    | 49                                 | 24                                      | 28                                  | 51*                                | 69                    | <u>55</u>                          | 21                                      | 24                                  | 45                                 |
| Employment       | 78                    | 43                                 | 30                                      | 27                                  | 57*                                | 63                    | <u>74</u>                          | 21                                      | 5                                   | 26                                 |
| Health Services  | 80                    | <u>54</u>                          | 24                                      | 22                                  | 46                                 | 72                    | <u>70</u>                          | 19                                      | 11                                  | 30                                 |
| Discrimination   | 75                    | <u>45</u>                          | 27                                      | 28                                  | 55*                                | 71                    | <u>65</u>                          | 22                                      | 14                                  | 35                                 |
| Welfare          | 70                    | <u>59</u>                          | 28                                      | 13                                  | 41                                 | 53                    | <u>74</u>                          | 15                                      | 11                                  | 26                                 |
| Law Enforcement  | 76                    | <u>69</u>                          | 27                                      | 4                                   | 31                                 | 64                    | <u>81</u>                          | 16                                      | 4                                   | 19                                 |

<sup>†</sup> Percentages are computed from those respondents expressing opinions; non-respondents are excluded. Percentages in columns I, II, and III may not total to 100 percent due to rounding error.

\* Problem areas with a majority of respondents expressing somewhat or very serious concern.

Underlining identifies those problem areas with a majority of respondents expressing a not serious view of the issue.

A far stronger consensus occurred among older Hispanics of what constituted a serious problem for the Hispanic community in general than on what constituted a problem for older Hispanics. Likewise, a greater consensus was found on what did not constitute a problem for older Hispanics than what was not a problem for the Hispanic community.

In each case, the percentage of respondents who viewed a problem as not serious for themselves exceeded the proportion who viewed the problem as not serious for their community. Conversely, the percentage of respondents who viewed a problem as either somewhat or very serious for the Hispanic community exceeded those who viewed the problem as somewhat/very serious for themselves.

In no instance did a majority of respondents rate a problem area as very serious, either for the Hispanic community or for themselves. A majority of respondents did consider ten (63 percent) of the problem areas as either somewhat or very serious for the Hispanic community; however, only four (25 percent) of the problem areas were rated as somewhat/very serious for the older Hispanics themselves. The majority of respondents considered six (38 percent) of the problem areas not serious for the Hispanic community in general, and the majority of older Hispanics considered a total of 12 (75 percent) problem areas to be not serious for themselves. However, sizeable minorities of the respondents considered several problem areas very serious for themselves and for their communities. For example, in excess of 20 percent of respondents considered language, elderly services, education, culture loss, and transportation to be very serious problems for themselves.

In order to simplify the evaluations of problem areas, the problem areas were ranked according to the percentage of older Hispanics who considered the problems somewhat/very serious and not serious, respectively. Using this procedure, the five problem areas receiving least serious rankings and the five most serious rankings were compiled for both the Hispanic community and older Hispanics. (See Table 60.)

Among those problem areas ranked as most serious, a considerable correspondence was found between the rankings of seriousness for the Hispanic community and seriousness rankings for older Hispanics. The five top-ranked, most serious problem areas for each group included; language, culture loss, education, crime, and elderly services. Only for one problem area (among the six problem areas ranked as most serious) was there a difference

TABLE 60  
RANKING OF SERIOUSNESS OF PROBLEM AREAS ACCORDING TO RESPONSES OF OLDER HISPANICS

| Most Serious Problem Areas |   |         |                       |   |         | Least Serious Problem Areas |                                    |         |                       |                                    |         |
|----------------------------|---|---------|-----------------------|---|---------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|---------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|---------|
| For Hispanic Community*    |   |         | For Older Hispanics** |   |         | For Hispanic Community*     |                                    |         | For Older Hispanics** |                                    |         |
| Problem Area               | Percent of Respondents Somewhat or Very Serious | Ranking | Problem Area          | Percent of Respondents Somewhat or Very Serious | Ranking | Problem Area                | Percent of Respondents Not Serious | Ranking | Problem Area          | Percent of Respondents Not Serious | Ranking |
| Culture loss               | 74  | 1       | Language              | 63  | 1       | Law enforcement             | 69                                 | 1       | Housing               | 88                                 | 1       |
| Language                   | 67  | 2       | Elderly services      | 57  | 2       | Housing                     | 60                                 | 2       | Law enforcement       | 81                                 | 2       |
| Crime                      | 64  | 2       | Education             | 51  | 3       | Welfare                     | 59                                 | 3       | Recreation            | 76                                 | 3       |
| Education                  | 61  | 4       | Culture loss          | 51  | 3       | Youth Activities            | 59                                 | 3       | Drugs                 | 75                                 | 4       |
| Elderly services           | 60  | 5       | Transportation        | 45  | 4       | Recreation                  | 57                                 | 4       | Alcohol               | 74                                 | 5       |
| Drugs                      | 60  | 5       | Crime                 | 36  | 5       | Health services             | 54                                 | 5       | Employment            | 74                                 | 5       |
|                            |   |         |                       |   |         |                             |                                    |         | Welfare               | 74                                 | 5       |

\*N varies from 70 to 80 respondents.

\*\*N varies from 50 to 75 respondents.

between what older Hispanics viewed as most serious for themselves--transportation--and what they considered most serious for the Hispanic community--drugs.

For those problem areas ranked as least serious, a correspondence was found between the evaluations of the Hispanic community and older Hispanic group for only the two top rankings, housing and law enforcement, for each group. For the third through fifth rankings, only two of the seven problem areas cited as least serious were comparable (though in different order) between the groups; those problem areas were welfare services and recreation. The remaining of the top ranked least serious problem areas were drugs, alcohol, and employment for older Hispanics, and youth activities and health services for the Hispanic community.

To summarize, the majority of Omaha's older Hispanics did not view the problem areas evaluated to be of extreme severity (very serious), either for themselves or for the Hispanic community in general. However, sizeable minorities do view the problem areas as very serious. In addition, greater proportions of the older Hispanics view the problem areas to be relatively more serious for the Hispanic community in general than for themselves.

#### Problem Severity: Comparative Context

The evaluation of problem areas by Omaha's older Hispanics can be compared to the evaluation of a more limited number of problem areas by older Nebraskans. (See Table 61.) When the comparison was made, what had appeared to be a relatively small proportion of older Hispanics evaluating problems as somewhat or very serious was shown to be more sizeable, relative to the evaluations of older Nebraskans. While no more than 16 percent of older Nebraskans viewed any one of the eight problem areas as somewhat or very serious (for those combined categories), no fewer than 13 percent of older Hispanics viewed any of the problems to be somewhat or very serious. Thus, for every problem area examined, a greater proportion of older Hispanics than of older Nebraskans viewed the problem areas as somewhat or very serious.

A comparison of the two groups' rankings of problem areas (according to their seriousness) yielded some similarities as well as differences between groups. (See Table 61.) The problem areas ranked most differently by the two groups were: education, discrimination, and health. Older Omaha Hispanics viewed education as their most serious problem, while older

| TABLE 61<br>COMPARISON OF SERIOUSNESS OF PROBLEM AREAS<br>BETWEEN OLDER HISPANICS AND OLDER NEBRASKANS |                                  |  |                                     |   |      |                                  |  |                                     |   |      |
|--|----------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|---|------|----------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|---|------|
| Problem Areas  | Omaha's Older Hispanics*         |  |                                     |   |      | Older Nebraskans**               |  |                                     |   |      |
|  | I<br>Not<br>Serious<br>(percent) | II<br>Somewhat<br>Serious<br>(percent) | III<br>Very<br>Serious<br>(percent) | Somewhat and<br>Very Serious<br>(combined)<br>(percent) | Rank | I<br>Not<br>Serious<br>(percent) | II<br>Somewhat<br>Serious<br>(percent) | III<br>Very<br>Serious<br>(percent) | Somewhat and<br>Very Serious<br>(combined)<br>(percent) | Rank |
| Education  | 49                               | 26                                     | 25                                  | 51  | 1    | 95                               | 5                                      | 1                                   | 6   | 6    |
| Employment   | 74                               | 21                                     | 5                                   | 26  | 5    | 91                               | 7                                      | 2                                   | 9   | 4    |
| Housing  | 88                               | 13                                     | 0                                   | 13  | 7    | 94                               | 4                                      | 1                                   | 5   | 7    |
| Transportation   | 55                               | 21                                     | 24                                  | 45  | 2    | 88                               | 9                                      | 3                                   | 12  | 3    |
| Health   | 70                               | 19                                     | 11                                  | 30  | 4    | 84                               | 13                                     | 3                                   | 16  | 1    |
| Crime  | 64                               | 23                                     | 13                                  | 36  | 3    | 86                               | 11                                     | 3                                   | 14  | 2    |
| Discrimination   | 65                               | 22                                     | 14                                  | 36  | 3    | 93                               | 3                                      | 1                                   | 4   | 8    |
| Recreation   | 76                               | 24                                     | 0                                   | 24  | 6    | 92                               | 7                                      | 1                                   | 8   | 5    |
| *n varies from 40 to 75 respondents.<br>**n = 1720   |                                  |  |                                     |   |      |                                  |  |                                     |   |      |



Nebraskans rated education sixth out of the eight problem areas. The difference in ratings may be attributed to the disparity in educational attainment between the two groups, Hispanics having received relatively less formal education. The issue of discrimination is bound to be more relevant to and sensitive for the older Hispanic minority, who rated it third in seriousness, than it would be to the older Nebraskan majority, who rated it as least serious.

As for problems of health, older Hispanics rated health as their fourth most serious problem, while older Nebraskans ranked health as their number one concern. The health ranking differences between the two groups simply may be due to the relative weighting of health as a problem area, or the differences may be due to a combination of other considerations, including whether the reference of either group was to their physical health or their use of health services, and/or whether variations occurred in health delivery systems available to the two groups. At any rate, in spite of the relatively lower ranking of health problems by older Hispanics, nearly twice as great a percentage of older Hispanics viewed the problems associated with health to be somewhat/very serious as did older Nebraskans.

The rankings of the remaining problem areas were comparable between older Hispanics and older Nebraskans. Crime and transportation were ranked as either second or third by both groups, and the rankings of employment, recreation, and housing were comparable between older Hispanics and older Nebraskans.

#### General Life Attitudes

Finally, three questions were asked concerning the respondents' general life attitudes; their responses to those questions were also compared to the responses of older Nebraskans. (See Table 62.) As an indicator of activity involvement and satisfaction with those activities, respondents were asked whether they had enough, not enough, or too much to do. Though a minority in each case, a comparable proportion of Omaha's older Hispanics and older Nebraskans claimed not enough to do. In addition, greater than twice as many older Hispanics as older Nebraskans claimed too much to do. Both those claiming not enough to do and those expressing too much to do were expressing an unsatisfactory level of activity. Thus a lesser proportion of older Hispanics (68 percent) than older Nebraskans (81 percent) felt that they were involved in a satisfactory level of activities.

TABLE 62  
COMPARISON OF GENERAL LIFE ATTITUDES BETWEEN  
OLDER OMAHA HISPANICS AND OLDER NEBRASKANS AS A PERCENT\*

How satisfied are you with your life today?

|            | Older Omaha Hispanics |    | Older Nebraskans |    | Older Nebraskans in Eastern Region |    |
|------------|-----------------------|----|------------------|----|------------------------------------|----|
| Very       | 58                    | }  | 55               | }  | 53                                 | }  |
| Fairly     | 30                    |    | 39               |    | 39                                 |    |
| Not very   | 11                    | }  | 5                | }  | 8                                  | }  |
| Not at all | 1                     |    | 1                |    | 0                                  |    |
|            |                       | 88 |                  | 94 |                                    | 92 |
|            |                       | 12 |                  | 6  |                                    | 8  |

How often do you feel lonely?

|           | Older Omaha Hispanics |    | Older Nebraskans |    | Older Nebraskans in Eastern Region |    |
|-----------|-----------------------|----|------------------|----|------------------------------------|----|
| Never     | 39                    | }  | 48               | }  | 52                                 | }  |
| Sometimes | 46                    |    | 42               |    | 37                                 |    |
| Often     | 15                    |    | 9                |    | 11                                 |    |
|           |                       | 85 |                  | 91 |                                    | 89 |

Do you think you have enough to do?

|            | Older Omaha Hispanics |    | Older Nebraskans |    | Older Nebraskans in Eastern Region |    |
|------------|-----------------------|----|------------------|----|------------------------------------|----|
| Too Much   | 24                    | }  | 10               | }  | 12                                 | }  |
| Enough     | 68                    |    | 81               |    | 78                                 |    |
| Not Enough | 8                     |    | 8                |    | 10                                 |    |
|            |                       | 92 |                  | 91 |                                    | 90 |

\*For Older Omaha Hispanics, n=79

For Older Nebraskans, n=1720

For Older Nebraskans in Eastern Region, n=215

Those experiencing unsatisfactory levels of activity are likely to be those persons also experiencing problems related to interaction and/or those persons expressing a greater concern for certain problem areas.

Also related to interaction is the question of how often respondents felt lonely. A greater proportion of older Hispanics often felt lonely than did older Nebraskans. Thus a greater proportion of older Hispanics than older Nebraskans desire greater levels of interaction than they realize.

Finally, the general question was asked, "How satisfied are you with your life today?" As compared to older Nebraskans, proportionately twice as many of Omaha's older Hispanics were not very or not at all satisfied with their lives. That greater proportion of older Hispanics expressing lesser satisfaction with their lives would appear to correspond to the greater proportion encountering financial, interaction, and other problems cited earlier in the report.

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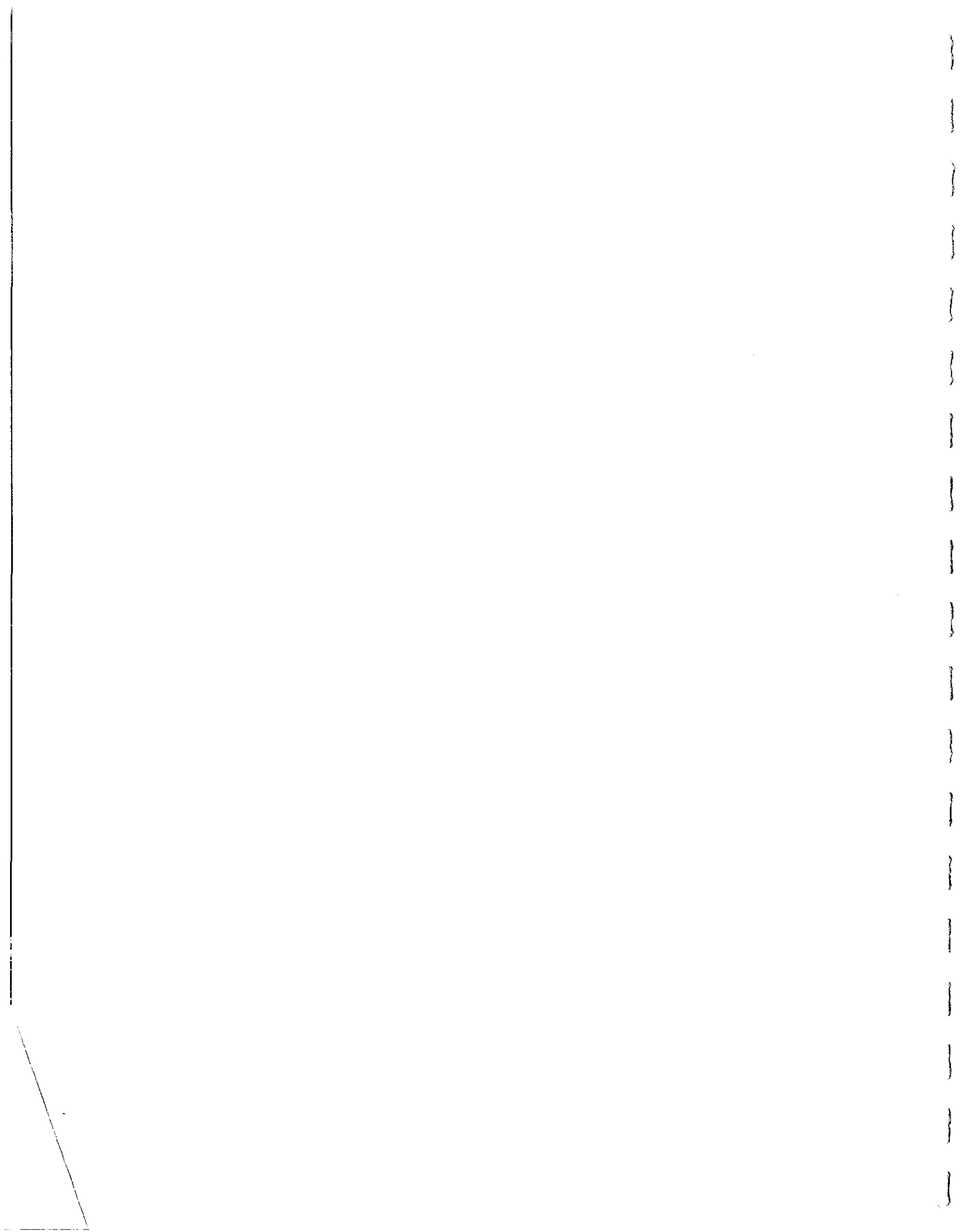
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## APPENDIX I

### RESEARCH DESIGN



## APPENDIX I

### RESEARCH DESIGN

The data base of this report results from personal interviews with older Omaha Hispanics conducted during May and June of 1979. The data base consists of the responses of survey subjects to questions concerned with their attitudes, opinions, and evaluations of problem areas, selected services, and public programs of relevance to themselves and their community. The survey data also establish the demographic and residential/environmental characteristics of the older Hispanic population. The needs and desires of Omaha's older Hispanics were determined through the analysis of that data base.

#### The Survey Instrument and Procedure

The survey instrument was designed in close consultation with Nebraska's Mexican-American Commission and the Commission on Aging. The questionnaire was designed to be comparable to an earlier statewide survey of older citizens (Research Associates, 1978a and b). The instrument was pretested prior to its final administration. The final questionnaire was translated into vernacular Spanish by two bilingual educated Omaha Hispanics. (See Appendix II.)

The questionnaire was administered by bilingual Hispanic interviewers in their mid-years employed specifically for this project. The interviewers were given several training sessions in the techniques and pitfalls of interviewing. Because several of the interviewers were well-known and/or leaders in the Hispanic community, care was taken to preclude interviewing friends and acquaintances to insure the anonymity of respondents so that honest and uninhibited responses would result.

Interviewers carried both English and Spanish versions of the questionnaire to their interviews. Once introduced, respondents were encouraged to select the language in which they were most comfortable conversing, and that preferred language version of the questionnaire was

administered to the respondent. Interviewing time averaged one hour per completed interview. Data gathered by interviewers were verified through a callback procedure by project supervisors.

#### Selection of Respondents and Size of Respondent Group

Selection of a sample of respondents requires knowledge of the population size of a group. Unfortunately, determination of the population of older Omaha Hispanics (or of all Omaha Hispanics) in 1979 is imprecise at best. The most recent and reliable age-categorized data on Omaha Hispanics are from the 1970 Census figures. Comparable data will not be available until the 1980 Census figures are published in 1982 or 1983. That inavailability of data, coupled with the existence of Hispanic residents "without papers," precludes the accurate determination of the population size of older Omaha Hispanics in 1979. Therefore, scientifically sampling from the population of older Omaha Hispanics was virtually impossible in this case.

Consequently, the identification of potential respondents was accomplished through an informant procedure. An initial list of older Omaha Hispanics was compiled through interviews with leaders in the Hispanic community.<sup>1</sup> Additional respondents were identified through contact with Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church and from interviewers and the respondents themselves.

All older Omaha Hispanics who were identified and who could be located were interviewed. The informant procedure produced a total listing of 155 persons. Thirty-six of the 155 persons or 23 percent could not be contacted because of changes of address or repeated absence from their residences. The number of older Omaha Hispanics actually contacted, therefore, totaled 119 individuals.

Of the 119 individuals contacted, 21 refused to be interviewed (seven of these because of poor health). This amounted to a refusal rate of 18 percent, or a response rate of 82 percent--considered an adequate response rate for properly designed and executed surveys (Bobbie, 1973, p. 171). When the data were coded, 18 of the completed interviews (or 15 percent of all 119 persons contacted) were found to be with persons 51 to 59, less than the age requirement for inclusion so those 18 interviews were discarded as invalid. The result was that a total of 80 individual interviews were completed and coded for analysis.

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<sup>1</sup>The Hispanic leader interviews were facilitated through the related research project, (Burch, 1979).

## Method of Analysis

The 80 valid and verified interviews were coded for computer analysis. The data were arrayed, and the frequency distributions of each variable were constructed.

Further analysis consisted of the computation of joint frequency distributions of cases according to two classificatory variables (Nie, 1970, p. 116). In other words, the variations in value of each variable were compared, in turn, to the variations in all other variables. The value of such analysis is in its ability to determine the degree of association between any pair of variables. The statistics generated were used to determine whether the joint frequency distributions of variables could be attributed to chance alone, or whether the distributions were more regular than could be attributed to chance.

Several measures of association may be used to determine the relatedness of pairs of variables. The statistics employed for this analysis included: 1) contingency coefficients with the chi-square statistic; and 2) lambda both for nominally-scaled classificatory data (such as yes/no responses); and 3) gamma for ordinally-scaled, rank-ordered data (such as age or income categories).

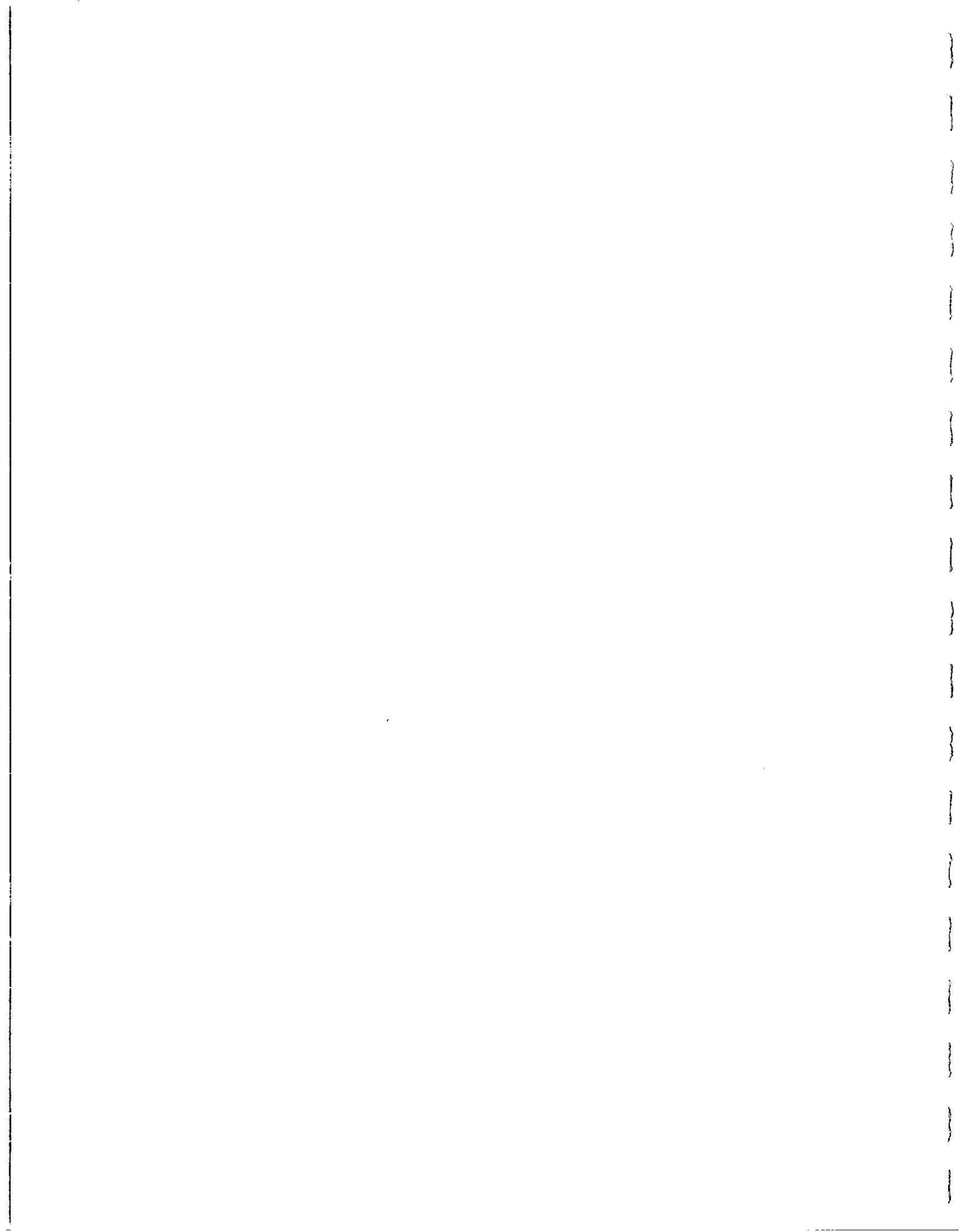
The statistically significant associations were used as the basis of discussion in the report.



APPENDIX II

QUESTIONNAIRE





Person No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Area No. \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Record type of housing**

1. House
2. Apartment/duplex
3. Apartment/duplex for senior citizens
4. Mobile home
5. Rented room
6. Boarding house, hotel

7. Other **Specify** \_\_\_\_\_

**Knock on door or ring bell. When answered say:**

"Hello, I'm \_\_\_\_\_ working for the Nebraska Mexican American Commission."

'Is \_\_\_\_\_ at home?

**If NO say:**

We would like to ask him/her some questions about life in Omaha so that we can improve services for older Mexican Americans. Can you tell me when he/she will be home?

**Make an arrangement to return later.**

**If YES say:**

We would like you to tell us what you do and what services you need so that Omaha will be a better place for older Mexican Americans to live.

## PART I

State

I'd like to ask you questions about your activities and needs.

1. On the whole, how satisfied are you with your life today?

Very Satisfied      Fairly Satisfied      Not Very Satisfied      Not At All Satisfied

1                      2                      3                      4

1

Read choices

2. How often do you feel lonely?

Often                      Sometimes                      Never

3                      2                      1

2

Read choices

3. Do you feel you have: too much to do, enough to do, or not enough to do?

Too Much To Do                      Enough To Do                      Not Enough To Do

1                      2                      3

3

4. What kinds of activities do you enjoy at your home? How often?

Activity                      Daily                      Weekly                      Monthly                      Other (Specify)

|       |   |   |   |         |
|-------|---|---|---|---------|
| _____ | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 _____ |
| _____ | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 _____ |
| _____ | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 _____ |
| _____ | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 _____ |

List

If no answer, ask "How about hobbies, reading, TV, gardening?"

5. What kinds of activities do you enjoy away from your home? How often?

|       |   |   |   |         |
|-------|---|---|---|---------|
| _____ | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 _____ |
| _____ | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 _____ |
| _____ | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 _____ |
| _____ | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 _____ |

List

If no answer, ask "How about visiting, picnics and outings, sports, eating out, church activities, hobbies, entertainment, clubs?"

6. What other activities would you enjoy if you could? How often?

|       |   |   |   |         |
|-------|---|---|---|---------|
| _____ | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 _____ |
| _____ | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 _____ |
| _____ | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 _____ |
| _____ | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 _____ |

List

7. Can you read Spanish, English, both?

Neither 1  
Spanish 2  
English 3  
Both 4

7  
☐

If neither, go to 11

7A. Do you read newspapers regularly?

Yes No  
1 2

7A  
☐

8. Are any of them printed in Spanish?

Yes No  
1 2

8  
☐

If Yes

Which? 1. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_

9. Do you read magazines regularly?

Yes No  
1 2

9  
☐

10. Are any of them printed in Spanish?

Yes No  
1 2

10  
☐

If Yes

Which? 1. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_

11. Do you listen to radio regularly?

Yes No  
1 2

11  
☐

12. Are any programs in Spanish?

Yes No  
1 2

12  
☐

If Yes

Which? 1. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_

13. Do you watch TV regularly?

Yes No  
1 2

13  
☐

14. Are any programs in Spanish?

Yes No  
1 2

14  
☐

If Yes

Which? 1. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_

15. Do you have a telephone in your home?

Yes No  
1 2

15  
☐

16. How often do you get out of your home?

Read choices

- Almost every day 1
- A few times a week 2
- A few times a month 3
- Once a month 4
- Several times a year 5
- Once a year 6
- Never, except for emergencies 7

16

17. How do you usually get around for your regular chores and activities?

Read choices; if more than one, number in order of their use to the left.

- Walk 1
- Take a bus 2
- Take a senior citizen bus 3
- Take a taxi 4
- Drive your own car 5
- Get driven by family/friends 6

17

18. How often do relatives visit with you in your home?

Read choices

- | Regularly | Often | Seldom | Never |
|-----------|-------|--------|-------|
| 1         | 2     | 3      | 4     |

18

19. How often do you visit with relatives in their homes?

- |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|

19

20. How often do friends visit with you in your home?

- |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|

20

21. How often do you visit with friends in their homes?

- |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|

21

22. How often do you eat meals away from your home?

- |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|

22

23. With whom do you usually eat your main meal of the day?

Read choices

- Alone 1
- With spouse 2
- With other relatives 3
- With friends/neighbors 4

23

Other  Specify  5

24. Do you know of a program in your neighborhood which provides hot noon meals at a public place?

If no, go to 26

If yes

25. How often have you eaten there?

- |     |    |
|-----|----|
| Yes | No |
| 1   | 2  |

24

- Yes, regularly 1
- Yes, occasionally 2
- Yes, rarely 3
- No, never 4

25

26. How many times have you been ill in the last year? \_\_\_\_\_

26

Record details if relevant

27. How many times have you sought out medical services in the last year? \_\_\_\_\_

27

28. How many times have you used these services in the last year?

Read each

Dentist \_\_\_\_\_

1

Private doctor \_\_\_\_\_

2

Medical clinic \_\_\_\_\_

3

Medical school \_\_\_\_\_

4

Hospital \_\_\_\_\_

5

"Curandero" \_\_\_\_\_

6

Other Specify \_\_\_\_\_

7

28

29. Did you have any problems in getting health services?

Yes  
1

No  
2

29

If yes, ask

30. What problems?

Wait; if no response,  
offer choices. . . .  
"Star" those  
problems cited  
before choices  
were offered.

Availability \_\_\_\_\_

1

Cost \_\_\_\_\_

2

Spanish speaking \_\_\_\_\_

3

Transportation \_\_\_\_\_

4

Long waits \_\_\_\_\_

5

Other \_\_\_\_\_

6

30

31. Have you had a regular health checkup during the last year?

Yes  
1

No  
2

31

32. How do you usually pay for medical services?

Don't read choices

There may be more than one answer

Cash

1

Health insurance

2

Medicare

3

Medicaid

4

Other

Specify \_\_\_\_\_

5

Not paid, yet

6

32

33. How many times have you had legal questions or problems in the last year? \_\_\_\_\_

33

Such as those related to contracts, program eligibility,  
mortgage, etc.

☐

If the person has had problems, ask:

34. Who do you ask about legal matters?

Don't read choices

Lawyer 1  
Family 2  
Friends 3  
Priest/minister 4  
Doctor 5  
Other Specify \_\_\_\_\_ 6

34

☐

If the person has not had problems, ask:

35. If you had legal problems who would  
you consult?

Don't read choices

Lawyer 1  
Family 2  
Friends 3  
Priest/minister 4  
Doctor 5  
Other Specify \_\_\_\_\_ 6

35

☐

36. How many times have you used legal services in the last year? \_\_\_\_\_

36

☐

If no times

37. Why didn't you use  
legal services?

Don't read choices

No legal problems 1  
Didn't know where to go 2  
No services available 3  
Too expensive 4  
Transportation problems 5  
Health problems 6  
Rely on family 7  
Other Specify \_\_\_\_\_ 8

37

☐

38. Are you registered to vote?

Yes 1 No 2

38

☐

If yes

39. Did you vote in the last election?

Yes 1 No 2

39

☐

40-42. Now I'm going to read you a list of programs and services for older citizens in Omaha and ask you some questions about each one.

READ EACH SERVICE, ASK: 1. Have you heard of; (IF YES)  
2. Have you participated in it; (IF THEY PARTICIPATED)  
3. Were there Spanish speaking workers available to work with you?

|  | 40.      |    |          | 41.          |    |    | 42.                                       |    |    |
|--|----------|----|----------|--------------|----|----|---|----|----|
|  | Heard of |    |          | Participated |    |    | Spanish speaking workers available to you |    |    |
|  | Yes      | No | Not Sure | Yes          | No | NA | Yes                                       | No | NA |
| Senior citizen's center  | 1        | 2  | 3        | 1            | 2  | 8  | 1   | 2  | 8  |
| Social security  | 1        | 2  | 3        | 1            | 2  | 8  | 1   | 2  | 8  |
| Meals on wheels  | 1        | 2  | 3        | 1            | 2  | 8  | 1   | 2  | 8  |
| Food stamps  | 1        | 2  | 3        | 1            | 2  | 8  | 1   | 2  | 8  |
| Home repair service for elderly (handyman)                               | 1        | 2  | 3        | 1            | 2  | 8  | 1   | 2  | 8  |
| Programs assisting in winterizing & insulating homes for older Americans | 1        | 2  | 3        | 1            | 2  | 8  | 1   | 2  | 8  |
| Programs assisting in homemaker/chores for senior citizens               | 1        | 2  | 3        | 1            | 2  | 8  | 1   | 2  | 8  |
| Senior citizen's discounts   | 1        | 2  | 3        | 2            | 3  | 8  | 1   | 2  | 8  |
| Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)                                  | 1        | 2  | 3        | 1            | 2  | 8  | 1   | 2  | 8  |
| Home health care programs  | 1        | 2  | 3        | 1            | 2  | 8  | 1   | 2  | 8  |
| Telephone reassurance program  | 1        | 2  | 3        | 1            | 2  | 8  | 1   | 2  | 8  |
| Handibus transportation for senior citizens                              | 1        | 2  | 3        | 1            | 2  | 8  | 1   | 2  | 8  |
| Supplementary Security Income  | 1        | 2  | 3        | 1            | 2  | 8  | 1   | 2  | 8  |
| Welfare programs   | 1        | 2  | 3        | 1            | 2  | 8  | 1   | 2  | 8  |
| Friendly visitor   | 1        | 2  | 3        | 1            | 2  | 8  | 1   | 2  | 8  |
| Other  | 1        | 2  | 3        | 1            | 2  | 8  | 1   | 2  | 8  |

say or SSI

43. I am going to read a list of problems that the community leaders often feel are serious. Please tell me how serious you think these problems are for the Omaha Hispanic community. Not at all serious, somewhat serious, or very serious. These are problems for the community itself.

Stress "Community"

| Are language problems not at all serious, somewhat serious, or very serious in Omaha? | Not At All Serious | Somewhat Serious | Very Serious | Not Applicable |
|---|--------------------|------------------|--------------|----------------|
| Language  | 1                  | 2                | 3            | 8              |
| Services for older persons  | 1                  | 2                | 3            | 8              |
| Alcohol over-use  | 1                  | 2                | 3            | 8              |
| Education   | 1                  | 2                | 3            | 8              |
| Youth activities  | 1                  | 2                | 3            | 8              |
| Losing the Mexican/Hispanic culture   | 1                  | 2                | 3            | 8              |
| Housing   | 1                  | 2                | 3            | 8              |
| Recreation  | 1                  | 2                | 3            | 8              |
| Crime/safety  | 1                  | 2                | 3            | 8              |
| Drug use  | 1                  | 2                | 3            | 8              |
| Transportation  | 1                  | 2                | 3            | 8              |
| Employment  | 1                  | 2                | 3            | 8              |
| Health care   | 1                  | 2                | 3            | 8              |
| Discrimination  | 1                  | 2                | 3            | 8              |
| Getting welfare services  | 1                  | 2                | 3            | 8              |
| Law enforcement   | 1                  | 2                | 3            | 8              |



44. I'm going to read the problems again and I want you to tell me which ones have been most serious for you.

Stress "for you"

Are language problems not at all serious, somewhat serious, or very serious for you?

|                                     | Not At All<br>Serious | Somewhat<br>Serious | Very<br>Serious | Not<br>Applicable |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Language                            | 1                     | 2                   | 3               | 8                 |
| Services for older persons          | 1                     | 2                   | 3               | 8                 |
| Alcohol over-use                    | 1                     | 2                   | 3               | 8                 |
| Education                           | 1                     | 2                   | 3               | 8                 |
| Youth activities                    | 1                     | 2                   | 3               | 8                 |
| Losing the Mexican/Hispanic culture | 1                     | 2                   | 3               | 8                 |
| Housing                             | 1                     | 2                   | 3               | 8                 |
| Recreation                          | 1                     | 2                   | 3               | 8                 |
| Crime/safety                        | 1                     | 2                   | 3               | 8                 |
| Drug use                            | 1                     | 2                   | 3               | 8                 |
| Transportation                      | 1                     | 2                   | 3               | 8                 |
| Employment                          | 1                     | 2                   | 3               | 8                 |
| Health care                         | 1                     | 2                   | 3               | 8                 |
| Discrimination                      | 1                     | 2                   | 3               | 8                 |
| Getting welfare services            | 1                     | 2                   | 3               | 8                 |
| Law enforcement                     | 1                     | 2                   | 3               | 8                 |

PART II

State

Now, I'd like to ask you a few questions about your residence.

45. How long have you lived at this address? \_\_\_\_\_ years

45

46. Where did you live last?

Same neighborhood in Omaha

1

Other neighborhood in Omaha

Specify

2

Outside of Omaha

Specify

3

Outside of state

Specify

4

Outside of country

Specify

5

Read choices

46

49. Did you have trouble finding your present residence?

Yes  
1

No  
2

49

If yes

50. What trouble did you have?

Wait; if no response,  
offer choices. . . .  
"Star" those problems  
cited before choices  
were offered.

Availability

Cost

Ethnic Neighborhood

Discrimination

Other

Specify

1

2

3

4

5

50

51. Do you own the residence you live in?

Yes  
1

No  
2

51

If yes

52. What are your total housing costs per month? \_\_\_\_\_

52

53. Have you heard of the homestead tax exemption?

Yes  
1

No  
2

53

If yes

53A. Have you applied for the homestead tax exemption?

Yes  
1

No  
2

53A

If no

54. What are your rental costs per month? \_\_\_\_\_

54

55. Does this include utilities?

Yes  
1

No  
2

55

PART III

State

Now I'd like to ask a few questions about you.

Record whether male or female

56. Male 1  
Female 2

56

57. How old were you on your last birthday? \_\_\_\_\_ years

57

58. Are you single, married, widowed, divorced or separated?

Single

Married

Widowed

Divorced

Separated

1

2

3

4

5

58

59. Are you head of your household?

Yes  
1

No  
2

59

60. What are your living arrangements?

|                      |   |                          |
|----------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Do you live alone    | 1   | 60                       |
| with husband or wife | 2   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| with your children   | 3   |                          |
| with other relatives | 4   |                          |
| with friends         | 5   |                          |
| Other                | <input type="text"/> Specify <input type="text"/> 6 | 61                       |
|                      |   | <input type="checkbox"/> |

62. What is your employment status?

|                               |   |                          |
|-------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Are you currently working     | 1 | 62                       |
| unemployed                    | 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| retired                       | 3 |                          |
| Never worked outside the home | 4 |                          |

If working

63. How many hours per week do you work?

63A. What is your job?

If retired

64. What was your job?

65. Did you ever attend school?

Yes 1 No 2

If no, go to question 67

65A. What was the last year of school you completed?

|   |  |                          |
|---|--|--------------------------|
| No formal education                       | 1  | 65A                      |
| Kindergarten thru 6                       | 2  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7 thru 9                                  | 3  |                          |
| Some high school                          | 4  |                          |
| Trade school                              | 5  |                          |
| Completed high school (12 years)          | 6  |                          |
| Post high school business or trade school | 7  |                          |
| Some college                              | 8  |                          |
| Completed college                         | 9  |                          |
| Advanced college degree                   | 10   |                          |
| Other                                     | <input type="text"/> Specify <input type="text"/> 11 |                          |

If there is a problem ask how many years of formal education.

66. Where did you attend school?

|        |  |   |                          |
|--------|--|---|--------------------------|
| U.S.   | <input type="text"/> Specify state(s) <input type="text"/> | 1 | 66                       |
| Mexico |  | 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other  | <input type="text"/> Specify <input type="text"/>          | 3 |                          |

67. Where were you born?

|        |   |   |                          |
|--------|---|---|--------------------------|
| U.S.   | <input type="text"/> Specify State <input type="text"/> | 1 | 67                       |
| Mexico |   | 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other  | <input type="text"/> Specify <input type="text"/>       | 3 |                          |

68. When you refer to your ethnic heritage, how do you identify yourself?

|                  |   |                          |
|------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Hispanic         | 1   | 68                       |
| Chicano          | 2   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Mexican-American | 3   |                          |
| Other            | <input type="text"/> Specify <input type="text"/> 4 |                          |

Read choices

**69. What is your religion?**

**Catholic**

1

69

## Protestant

### Specify

**2**

**Other**

### Specify

3

None

4

**If cite religion**

**70. What religious activities do you participate in regularly?**

70

**71. What is your weekly/monthly income?**

## Weekly

## Monthly

71

**72. What are your sources of income?**

## Earnings

1

72

## Savings

2

## Social security

3

### Other retirement funds

4

## Family

5

## Welfare

6

**Other**

## Specify

7

**There may be more than one answer.**

### Read choices

73. Is there anything else about your life in Omaha that you would like to change, or any services that you could use?

**Wait**

**Thank you very much for taking the time to help us.**



Person No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Area No. \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Record type of housing**

1. House
2. Apartment/duplex
3. Apartment/duplex for senior citizens
4. Mobile home
5. Rented room
6. Boarding house, hotel

7. Other

**Specify** \_\_\_\_\_

**Knock on door or ring bell. When answered say:**

Buenos días yo soy \_\_\_\_\_ y estoy trabando para la comisión mejicana-Americana de Nebraska.

¿Esta \_\_\_\_\_ en casa?

**If NO say:**

Queremos hacerle algunas preguntas acerca de la vida diaria en Omaha, para poder amejorar los servicios para los Mejicanos de edad madura de aquí. ¿Me puede decir cuando estará \_\_\_\_\_ en casa?

**Make an arrangement to return later.**

**If YES say:**

Deseamos que usted nos dijera que hace usted y que nos dijera cuales servicios necesita, para que Omaha sea Mejor lugar donde los Mejicanos de edad madura puedan vivir.

PART I

State

Ahora, quisiera saber algo acerca de sus actividades y necesidades..

1. Generalmente, que tan satisfecho esta Ud. con su vida hoy?

Read choices

muy  
satisfecho 1      un poco  
satisfecho 2      no muy  
satisfecho 3      desatisfecho 4

1

2. Con cuanta frecuencia se siente Ud. solo?

Read choices

con mucha  
frecuencia 1      algunas  
veces 2      nunca 3

2

3. Siente Ud. que tiene

demasiado  
que hacer 1      suficiente  
que hacer 2      muy poco  
que hacer 3

3

¿ Cuantas Veces?

4. Que clases de actividades le gusta hacer en su hogar?

List

| Actividad | Diario | Semanal | Mensual | Otro<br>(especifique) |
|-----------|--------|---------|---------|-----------------------|
| _____     | 1      | 2       | 3       | 4 _____               |
| _____     | 1      | 2       | 3       | 4 _____               |
| _____     | 1      | 2       | 3       | 4 _____               |
| _____     | 1      | 2       | 3       | 4 _____               |

If no answer, ask "How about hobbies, reading, TV, gardening?"

5. En que actividades se divierte Ud. fuera del hogar?

List

|       |   |   |   |         |
|-------|---|---|---|---------|
| _____ | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 _____ |
| _____ | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 _____ |
| _____ | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 _____ |
| _____ | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 _____ |

If no answer, ask "How about visiting, picnics and outings, sports, eating out, church activities, hobbies, entertainment, clubs?"

6. Que otras actividades quisiera Ud. hacer si pudiera?

List

|       |   |   |   |         |
|-------|---|---|---|---------|
| _____ | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 _____ |
| _____ | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 _____ |
| _____ | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 _____ |
| _____ | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 _____ |

7. ¿Puedes leer Español, Inglés, o los dos?

o ninguno 1  
Español 2  
Inglés 3  
o los dos 4

If neither, go to 11

7

7A. ¿Lee ud periódicos regularmente?

Si 1

No 2

7A

8. ¿Lo que lee usted, es en Español?

Si 1

No 2

8

If Yes

¿Cuales?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

9. ¿Lee ud, revistas regularmente?

Si 1

No 2

9

10. ¿Lo que lee usted, es en Español?

Si 1

No 2

10

If Yes

¿Cuales?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

11. ¿Escucha el radio regularmente?

Si 1

No 2

11

12. ¿Son algunos de estos programas en Español?

Si 1

No 2

12

If Yes

¿Cuales?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

13. ¿Mira usted al televisión regularmente?

Si 1

No 2

13

14. ¿Son algunos de estos programas en Español?

Si 1

No 2

14

If Yes

¿Cuales?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

15. ¿Tiene Ud. telefono en su casa?

Si 1

No 2

15



16. ¿Con cuanta frecuencia sale ud. de su residencia?

Read choices

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| casi todos los días           | 1 |
| algunas veces a la semana     | 2 |
| algunas veces al mes          | 3 |
| una vez al mes                | 4 |
| algunas veces al año          | 5 |
| una vez al año                | 6 |
| nunca, excepto en emergencias | 7 |

16

17. ¿Cuando va usted a atender sus negocios, como va?

Read choices; if more than one,  
number in order of their use to  
the left.

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Caminando   | 1 |
| va en autobus                                     | 2 |
| va en autobus de ancianos                         | 3 |
| va en taxi  | 4 |
| va en su propio automóvil                         | 5 |
| lo/a lleva un miembro<br>de la familia O un amigo | 6 |
|   | 7 |

17

18. ¿Cada cuando lo visita su familia en la casa de usted?

Read choices

|  | con<br>mucho<br>frecuencia | con<br>poca<br>frecuencia | nunca |
|--|----------------------------|---------------------------|-------|
|--|----------------------------|---------------------------|-------|

|   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|

18

19. ¿Cada cuando lo visita sus parientes (en la casa al ellos)

|   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|

19

20. ¿Cada cuando lo visita sus amigos (en la casa al usted)

|   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|

20

21. ¿Cada cuando visita a sus amigos en la casa de ellos?

|   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|

21

22. ¿Cada cuando come ud. fuera de la casa?

|   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|

22

23. ¿Usualmente, con quien come su comida principal del día?

Read choices

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| solo/a             | 1 |
| con el/la esposo/a | 2 |
| con parientes      | 3 |
| con amigos/vecinos | 4 |

23

otro Specify \_\_\_\_\_ 5

24. ¿Saber Ud. de algún programa en su vecindario que sirve  
comidas calientes a medio día, en sitios públicos?

If no, go to 26

If yes

25. Ha comido allí?

|     |    |
|-----|----|
| Yes | No |
| 1   | 2  |

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| si, regularmente   | 1 |
| si, a veces        | 2 |
| si, pero raramente | 3 |
| no, nunca          | 4 |

24

25

26. ¿Cuántas veces durante el año pasado ha necesitado usted ayuda para mantener su salud? \_\_\_\_\_ 26

Record details if relevant

27. ¿Cuántas veces durante el año pasado, ha ido usted por servicios médicos? \_\_\_\_\_ 27

28. ¿Cuántas veces durante el año pasado, ha usado usted estos servicios? \_\_\_\_\_ 28

Read each

el dentista \_\_\_\_\_ 1

el doctor privado \_\_\_\_\_ 2

la clínica médica \_\_\_\_\_ 3

la escuela medica \_\_\_\_\_ 4

el hospital \_\_\_\_\_ 5

el/la "Curendero/a" \_\_\_\_\_ 6

otro  Specify \_\_\_\_\_ 7

29. ¿Tuvo ud. problemas? \_\_\_\_\_ 29

Sí No  
 1 2

If yes, ask

30. ¿Que problemas? \_\_\_\_\_ 30

Wait; if no response, offer choices. . . .  
 "Star" those problems cited before choices were offered.

Accesibilidad \_\_\_\_\_ 1

costo \_\_\_\_\_ 2

tuvo problemas con el idioma \_\_\_\_\_ 3

transportación \_\_\_\_\_ 4

tuvo que esperarse mucho para recibir atención \_\_\_\_\_ 5

otro \_\_\_\_\_ 6

31. ¿Ha recibido un examen físico durante el año pasado? \_\_\_\_\_ 31

Sí No  
 1 2

32. ¿Como paga ud. usualmente por los servicios medicos? \_\_\_\_\_ 32

Don't read choices  
 There may be more than one answer

al contado \_\_\_\_\_ 1  
 seguro medico \_\_\_\_\_ 2  
 medicare \_\_\_\_\_ 3  
 medicaid \_\_\_\_\_ 4  
 otro  Specify \_\_\_\_\_ 5  
 no ha pagado, todavia \_\_\_\_\_ 6

33. ¿Cuántas veces ha tenido preguntas o problemas legales durante el año pasado? \_\_\_\_\_

33

Such as those related to contracts, program eligibility, mortgage, etc.

☐

If the person has had problems, ask:

34. ¿Con quien consulta Ud. acerca de cuestiones legales?

Don't read choices

con un abogado 1  
con la familia 2  
con amigos 3  
con un ministro/sacerdote 4  
con un doctor 5  
con otro Specify \_\_\_\_\_ 6

34

☐

If the person has not had problems, ask:

35. ¿Si ud. tuviera problemas legales, con quien consultara?

Don't read choices

con un abogado 1  
con la familia 2  
con amigos 3  
con un ministro/sacerdote 4  
con un doctor 5  
con otro Specify \_\_\_\_\_ 6

35

☐

36. ¿Cuántas veces usó ud. servicios legales en el año pasado? \_\_\_\_\_

36

If no times

37. ¿Si nunca, por que no?

Don't read choices

no existió problema legal 1  
demasiado caro 2  
no los pude encontrar 3  
problemas con transportacion 4  
problemas con la salud 5  
no supo donde ir. 6  
confio en la familia/(los resolvio en la familia) 7  
otro Specify \_\_\_\_\_ 8

37

☐

38. ¿Esta ud. registrado para votar?

Si  
1

No  
2

38

☐

If yes

39. ¿Votó ud. en las ultimas elecciones?

Si  
1

No  
2

39

☐

40-42. Ahora le voy a leer una lista de programas y servicios para ancianos en Omaha y hacerle algunas preguntas acerca de ellos.

READ EACH SERVICE, ASK: 1. Have you heard of; (IF YES)  
2. Have you participated in it; (IF THEY PARTICIPATED)  
3. Were there Spanish speaking workers available to work with you?

Centro da ancianos  
Seguro Social  
Comidas traídas a su casa  
Estampas de alimento  
Reparamiento de hogar para ancianos  
Programas para mejorar su casa aules del invierno  
Programas para ayudarlo con los que haceres de la casa  
Descuentos para ancianos  
Programa de ancianos retirados voluntarios  
Programas de salud eh el hogar  
Programas daude usted puede recilier qyuda par telefono  
Transportation para ancianos  
Dinero suplementario del estado  o SSI  
Programas de welfare  
Visitantes amigos  
Otro \_\_\_\_\_

| 40.<br>Ha oido<br>algo del<br>programa |    |        | 41.<br>Participó |    |    | 42.<br>Hubo<br>trabajadores de<br>habla Espanol |    |    |
|--|----|--------|------------------|----|----|---|----|----|
| Sí                                     | No | Dudoso | Sí               | No | NA | Sí  | No | NA |
| 1                                      | 2  | 3      | 1                | 2  | 8  | 1   | 2  | 8  |
| 1                                      | 2  | 3      | 1                | 2  | 8  | 1   | 2  | 8  |
| 1                                      | 2  | 3      | 1                | 2  | 8  | 1   | 2  | 8  |
| 1                                      | 2  | 3      | 1                | 2  | 8  | 1   | 2  | 8  |
| 1                                      | 2  | 3      | 1                | 2  | 8  | 1   | 2  | 8  |
| 1                                      | 2  | 3      | 1                | 2  | 8  | 1   | 2  | 8  |
| 1                                      | 2  | 3      | 1                | 2  | 8  | 1   | 2  | 8  |
| 1                                      | 2  | 3      | 1                | 2  | 8  | 1   | 2  | 8  |
| 1                                      | 2  | 3      | 1                | 2  | 8  | 1   | 2  | 8  |
| 1                                      | 2  | 3      | 1                | 2  | 8  | 1   | 2  | 8  |
| 1                                      | 2  | 3      | 1                | 2  | 8  | 1   | 2  | 8  |
| 1                                      | 2  | 3      | 1                | 2  | 8  | 1   | 2  | 8  |
| 1                                      | 2  | 3      | 1                | 2  | 8  | 1   | 2  | 8  |
| 1                                      | 2  | 3      | 1                | 2  | 8  | 1   | 2  | 8  |
| 1                                      | 2  | 3      | 1                | 2  | 8  | 1   | 2  | 8  |
| 1                                      | 2  | 3      | 1                | 2  | 8  | 1   | 2  | 8  |

43. Le voy a leer una lista de problemas que lidere de la comunidad creen que son serios. Por favor digame que tan serios cree Ud. que son estos problemas para la comunidad Hispana de Omaha. Estos problemas son para la comunidad misma en general.

Stress "Community"

¿ Son los problemas de idioma: No es serio, Es un poco serio, muy serio en Omaha?

|                                       | No Es<br>Serio | Es Un<br>Poco<br>Serio | Muy<br>Serio | No Es<br>Aplicable |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|------------------------|--------------|--------------------|
| Idioma                                | 1              | 2                      | 3            | 8                  |
| Servicios para ancianos               | 1              | 2                      | 3            | 8                  |
| Alcoholismo                           | 1              | 2                      | 3            | 8                  |
| Educacion                             | 1              | 2                      | 3            | 8                  |
| Actividades de juventud               | 1              | 2                      | 3            | 8                  |
| Perdiendo la cultura Mejicana/Hispana | 1              | 2                      | 3            | 8                  |
| Habitacion                            | 1              | 2                      | 3            | 8                  |
| Recreacion                            | 1              | 2                      | 3            | 8                  |
| Crimen/seguridad                      | 1              | 2                      | 3            | 8                  |
| Drogas                                | 1              | 2                      | 3            | 8                  |
| Transportacion                        | 1              | 2                      | 3            | 8                  |
| Trabajo                               | 1              | 2                      | 3            | 8                  |
| Servicios medicos                     | 1              | 2                      | 3            | 8                  |
| Descriminacion                        | 1              | 2                      | 3            | 8                  |
| Adquiriendo servicios de welfare      | 1              | 2                      | 3            | 8                  |
| Servicios de la policia               | 1              | 2                      | 3            | 8                  |

44. Le voy a leer la lista otra vez y le voy a pedir que Ud.  
diga cuales son los mas serios para Ud.

Stress "for you"

¿ Son los problemas de idioma: no es serio, es un poco serio,  
muy serio en Omaha?

|                                       | No Es<br>Serio | Es Un<br>Poco<br>Serio | Muy<br>Serio | No Es<br>Aplicable |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|------------------------|--------------|--------------------|
| Idioma                                | 1              | 2                      | 3            | 8                  |
| Servicios para ancianos               | 1              | 2                      | 3            | 8                  |
| Alcoholismo                           | 1              | 2                      | 3            | 8                  |
| Educacion                             | 1              | 2                      | 3            | 8                  |
| Actividades de juventud               | 1              | 2                      | 3            | 8                  |
| Perdiendo la cultura Mejicana/Hispana | 1              | 2                      | 3            | 8                  |
| Habitacion                            | 1              | 2                      | 3            | 8                  |
| Recreacion                            | 1              | 2                      | 3            | 8                  |
| Crimen/seguridad                      | 1              | 2                      | 3            | 8                  |
| Drogas                                | 1              | 2                      | 3            | 8                  |
| Transportacion                        | 1              | 2                      | 3            | 8                  |
| Trabajo                               | 1              | 2                      | 3            | 8                  |
| Servicios medicos                     | 1              | 2                      | 3            | 8                  |
| Descriminacion                        | 1              | 2                      | 3            | 8                  |
| Adquiriendo servicios de welfare      | 1              | 2                      | 3            | 8                  |
| Servicios de la policia               | 1              | 2                      | 3            | 8                  |

PART II

State

Ahora, quisiera hacerle algunas preguntas acerca de su residencia.

45. ¿Cuanto tiempo ha vivido ud. en esta dirección? \_\_\_\_\_

45

46. ¿Donde vivio ud. ultimamente?

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| en el mismo barrio en Omaha | 1 |
| en otro barrio en Omaha     | 2 |
| Fuera de Omaha              | 3 |
| Fuera del estado            | 4 |
| fuera del país              | 5 |

Read choices

Specify

Specify

Specify

Specify

46

|   |   |                       |                             |
|---|---|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 49. ¿Tuvo ud. problemas para hallar su hogar, cuando andaba buscando casa?  | Sí<br>1   | No<br>2               | 49<br><input type="text"/>  |
| <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">If yes</div> 50. ¿Que problemas tuvo?  | Accesibilidad<br>Costo<br>Barrio étnico<br>Discriminación   | 1<br>2<br>3<br>4      | 50<br><input type="text"/>  |
| <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">           Wait; if no response,<br/>           offer choices. . . .<br/>           "Star" those problems<br/>           cited <u>before</u> choices<br/>           were offered.         </div> | Otro <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Specify</div> _____ | 5                     |                             |
| 51. ¿Es ud dueño/ade la residencia donde vive?  | Sí<br>1   | No<br>2               | 51<br><input type="text"/>  |
| <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">If yes</div> 52. ¿Cuanto son los pagos mensuales por su casa? _____  |   |                       | 52<br><input type="text"/>  |
| 53. ¿Ha oído algo acerca de la deducción de impuesto de propiedad?  | Sí<br>1   | No<br>2               | 53<br><input type="text"/>  |
| <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">If yes</div>   |   |                       |                             |
| 53A. ¿Ha ud aplicado por la deducción de impuesto de pro piedad?  | Sí<br>1   | No<br>2               | 53A<br><input type="text"/> |
| <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">If no</div>  |   |                       |                             |
| 54. ¿Cuanto paga en renta mensualmente? _____   |   |                       | 54<br><input type="text"/>  |
| 55. ¿Incluye esto los servicios públicos  | Sí<br>1   | No<br>2               | 55<br><input type="text"/>  |
| <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">PART III</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">State</div> Ahora, quisiera hacerle unas preguntas acerca de usted.                                    |   |                       |                             |
| <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Record whether male or female</div>  | 56. Male 1<br>Female 2  |                       | 56<br><input type="text"/>  |
| 57. ¿Que edad tuvo ud. en su cumpleaños mas reciente? _____   |   |                       | 57<br><input type="text"/>  |
| 58. ¿Es ud soltero/a, casado/a, vido/a, divorciado/a, separado/a?   | soltero/a<br>casado/a<br>viudo/a<br>divorciado/a<br>separado/a                                      | 1<br>2<br>3<br>4<br>5 | 58<br><input type="text"/>  |
| 59. ¿Es ud el jefe de la casa?  | Sí<br>1   | No<br>2               | 59<br><input type="text"/>  |

|      |  |   |   |                      |
|------|--|---|---|----------------------|
| 60.  | ¿vive ud solo/a?   | 1   |   | 60                   |
|      | con su esposo/a?   | 2   |   |                      |
|      | con sus hijos?   | 3   | 61. ¿Cuántos viven en la casa?                    | <input type="text"/> |
|      | con otros parientes?   | 4   |   | 61                   |
|      | con amigos?  | 5   |   | <input type="text"/> |
|      | otro   | Specify                                       | 6   |                      |
| 62.  | ¿Trabaja ud. ahora?  | Si<br>1                                       | No  | 62                   |
|      |  | If no ask                                     | esta desempleado?                                 | 2                    |
|      |  |   | retirado?   | 3                    |
|      |  |   | nunca ha trabajado fuera de la casa               | 4                    |
|      | If working   |   |   | 63                   |
|      |  | 63.   | ¿Cuántas horas por semana trabaja usted por pago? | <input type="text"/> |
|      |  | 63A.  | ¿De que consiste su trabajo?                      | 63A                  |
|      |  |   |   | <input type="text"/> |
|      | If retired   | 64.   | ¿Que era su trabajo, cuando estaba empleado/a?    | 64                   |
|      |  |   |   | <input type="text"/> |
| 65.  | ¿Que escuela a atendido?   | Si<br>1                                       | No<br>2   | 65                   |
|      | If no, go to question 67   |   |   | <input type="text"/> |
| 65A. | ¿Cual fue el ultimo año de escuela que cumplió ud.?              | no fue a la escuela                           | 1   | 65A                  |
|      |  | K - 6   | 2   | <input type="text"/> |
|      |  | 7 - 9   | 3   |                      |
|      |  | algunos años de secundaria                    | 4   |                      |
|      |  | escuela técnica                               | 5   |                      |
|      |  | cumplió escuela secundaria (12 años)          | 6   |                      |
|      |  | escuela técnica después de escuela secundaria | 7   |                      |
|      |  | alguna universidad                            | 8   |                      |
|      |  | se graduó de la universidad                   | 9   |                      |
|      |  | diploma avanzado de la universidad            | 10  |                      |
|      |  | otro  | Specify   | 11                   |
| 66.  | ¿Donde asistió ud. a la escuela?                                 | E.U.  | Specify state(s)                                  | 1                    |
|      |  |   |   | 2                    |
|      |  | Mejico  |   | 3                    |
|      |  | otro  | Specify   | 3                    |
| 67.  | ¿Donde nació ud?   | E.U.  | Specify State                                     | 1                    |
|      |  |   |   | 2                    |
|      |  | Mejico  |   | 3                    |
|      |  | otro  | Specify   | 3                    |
| 68.  | ¿Cuando se refiere ud. a su grupo étnico, se identifica ud. como | Hispano/a?                                    | 1   | 68                   |
|      |  | Chicano/a?                                    | 2   | <input type="text"/> |
|      |  | Mejicano/a-Americano/a?                       | 3   |                      |
|      | Read choices   | otro  | Specify   | 4                    |

69. ¿Cual es su religión?

Católica

1

69

Protestante

Specify

2

otro

Specify

3

ninguna

4

If cite religion

70. En que actividades religiosas participa ud. regularmente

70

71. ¿Cual es su salario semanal/mensual?

semanal

mensual

71

72. ¿De donde recibe su ingreso?

There may be more than  
one answer.

Read choices

los ingresos

1

los ahorros

2

el seguro social

3

los fondos de retiro

4

la familia

5

la sociedad de beneficencia

6

otro

Specify

7

72

73. ¿Hay alguna otra cosa acerca de su vida en Omaha que ud. desea compartir o hay algunos otros servicios que ud. pueda usar?

Wait

Muchisimas gracias por su ayuda.





ERRATA

to be incorporated into

A Needs Assessment Of Older Hispanics In Omaha, Nebraska

Dr. David R. DiMartino  
Center for Applied Urban Research

PAGE 14, Table 1 - titled "Comparative Figures For Hispanic And Older Populations In Specified Areas, 1970"

Figures in row seven across page, under heading 'Population of Mexican Origins,' should read as follows:

|                    |           |                                  |
|--------------------|-----------|----------------------------------|
| Omaha              | 1,629     |                                  |
| Douglas County     | 1,691     |                                  |
| Sarpy County       | 164       |                                  |
| Nebraska           | 11,827    |                                  |
| West North-Central |           | { .46% of Tot<br>37.4% of Sp Pop |
| United States      | 74,294    |                                  |
| United States      | 4,532,435 |                                  |

PAGE 18, Table 4 - heading of table should read: "Omaha's Mexican-American Population By Decennial Census"

